GRANDMOTHER'S LETTERS

BETSEY SHIPMAN GATES

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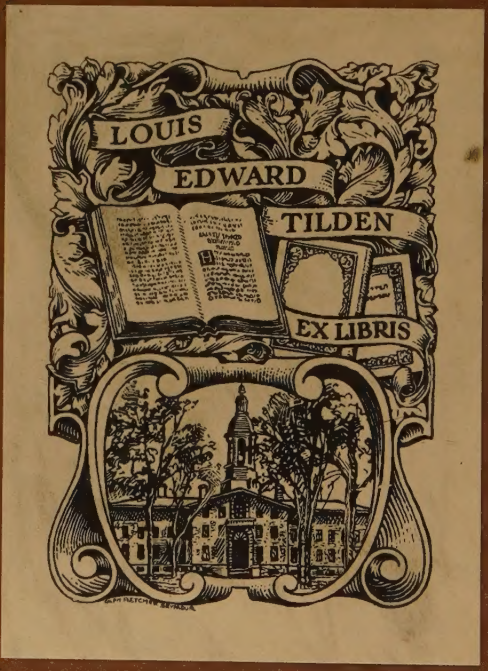
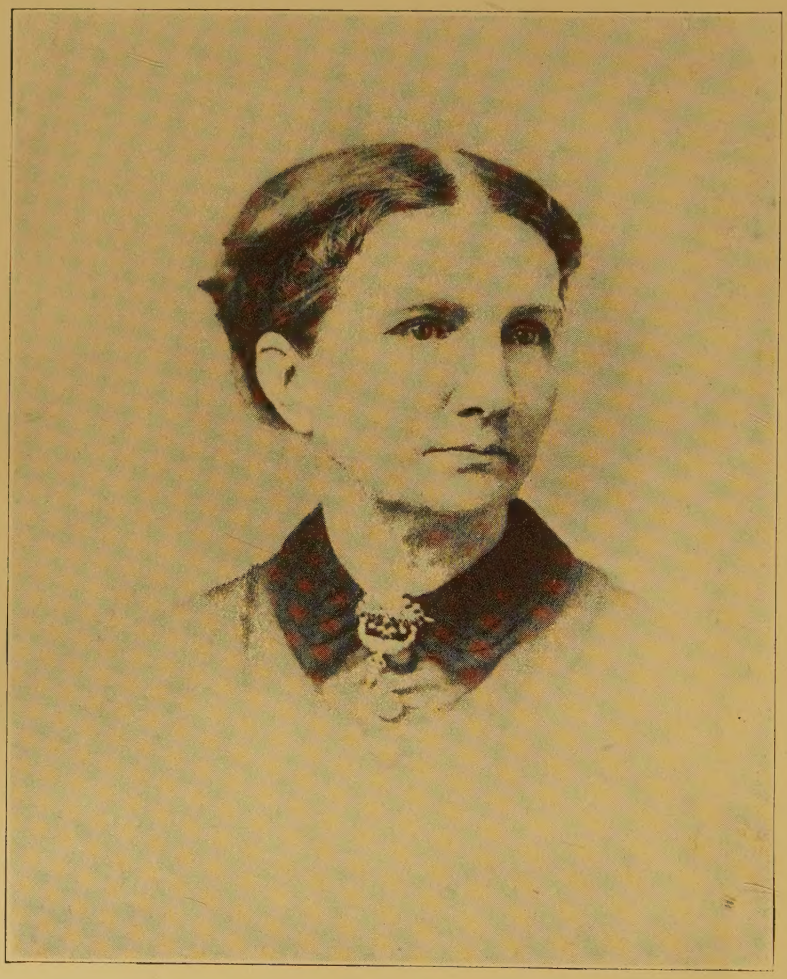




"Grandmother Gates"
Betsey Shipman Gates
Mrs. Beman Gates

Grandmother's Letters

Being for the most part selections
from the letters of
Betsey Shipman Gates
to her daughter
Betsey Gates Mills.

Prepared by
Mary Dawes Beach.

Printed by
HENRY M. DAWES
for the descendants of
"Grandmother Gates"

CHRISTMAS 1926

Copyright, 1926,
By HENRY M. DAWES
Chicago. Illinois.

Privately published by Henry M. Dawes, December 25, 1926.

Persons most frequently referred to in the letters and the names by which they are called.

Beman Gates.....“Your father,” Grandfather
Betsey Shipman Gates.....Grandmother

Mary Beman Gates Dawes.....Mary, Mother
Rufus R. Dawes.....Rufus or Rufus Senior, Father
Charles Gates Dawes.....Charlie
Rufus Cutler Dawes.....Rufus Cutler
Beman Gates Dawes.....Beman, Beman Junior, Be
Mary Frances Dawes Beach.....Mary Frances, Sister
Henry May Dawes.....Henry, Colonel Henry May
Betsey Gates Dawes Hoyt.....Bessie

Betsey Gates Mills.....Bettie, Aunt Bettie
William Webster Mills.....William, Will, Uncle Will

Sala Bosworth.....Uncle Bozzy
Joanna Shipman Bosworth.....Joan, Auntie Be

H. Bartlett Shipman.....Uncle Barty
Jennie Butler Shipman.....Aunt Jennie

Ephraim Cutler Dawes.....Uncle Eph, Eph
Frances Bosworth Dawes.....Aunt Frances, Francie

Annie Lehnhardt } ..... { sometimes cook
Mary Theis } { sometimes nurse

Grandmother's Letters

On October 12, 1875 Aunt Bettie and Uncle Will were married and went to Crawfordsville to live. Grandmother wrote Aunt Bettie twice a week and frequently oftener until they came to Marietta to live in 1887. All extracts are from these letters unless otherwise indicated.

There are only two events of family interest recorded in letters before 1875.

From Scrap Book of Joanna S. Bosworth. From Marietta Register 1871:

Beman Gates was in town on Monday from his temporary home in Beverly, Mass. He appears to be in excellent condition. Yankee air agrees with him. He is staying with his son-in-law Gen. Dawes.

Mrs. Gen. Dawes paid Mrs. A. B. Waters $15,000 for her new house on Fourth street, and J. W. Nye paid $5,000 for the Dawes cottage on the same street near Putnam.

Beverly, Mass. Thanksgiving eve, 1871.

To Mary:

Oh! I think I never! I don't know what to think! I am so glad for you all. I don't wonder you breathe easier. And the dear boys away from that miserable school house. You had your Thanksgiving dinner in your new house with your Father and Bettie. I had mine in ignorance of your good fortune. Wasn't the price pretty steep? What did your father think as Rufus drove him past your old house? Now the old mill will have to grind away to keep it up. Oh Mary, Mary, I am so glad, so glad! What a nice place for the boys to play in the back yard and then the three dozen boys that

Beman Gates
"Grandfather Gates"

were in your yard all the time now can only come occasionally.

Marietta, March 2, 1872.

To Grandfather (in Beverly, Mass.) :

Charlie was almost seven Rufus was two years younger Beman was two

You asked me awhile ago what I thought of the children. I think Beman is the keenest little fellow I ever saw. He says Gamma Dates cake care o' me and if the door is open he flies after me as if he was fleeing from the hands of the fowler. He is a real pretty or I might say handsome fellow. He says of you Gra-ra-ra gone down street in Boston when we ask where you are. He talks all the time and quite as plain as Rufus Cutler does. Rufus Cutler is my bed-fellow and he talks about our room as if he had always belonged to me. He is nobody's fool but he wants trimming badly and if I had him I would train him if he did not turn in and train me, instead. Charlie is one of the long headed fellows and I don't feel as if I was capable of managing him. They have got to be pretty gentle with him and firm.

Marietta, March 3, 1872.

We have got a most beautiful girl baby. Such rejoicing you never heard tell of. The news spread as fast as the Chicago fire. Beman says is that a boy? We say no a girl and he answers no a boy. Of the three boys Charlie shows the most intense pleasure. Rufus Cutler says now I have a little sister like Hobie Bosworth.

March 4, 1872.

We are still delighted with our little girl. Rufus came home from school saying he and Hobie had a fight about their sisters. Rufus said Hobie's sister was bixty boxty and Hobie snowballed him. Then

he said his sister was nice, then Hobie was a good boy. Frances telegraphed she must be called Mary Frances and we all agreed to that.

1876

Including letters from Charlie, Rufus Cutler and Beman

Marietta, Feb. 2, 1876.

Annie and Charlie have been coasting down the hill in front of the house. Annie is about as much of a boy as could be found in town.

Annie Lehnhardt, the cook.

Marietta, March 12, 1876.

The most important occurrence of the week in our family is that our cow has got a calf. As it came on Auntie's birthday, the 9th, we shall call her Joanna. The understanding is that it shall be raised and that it belongs to Beman Junior.

Marietta, March 26, 1876.

Charlie says tell you that in his examinations he stood the best in his class and his average was 96. Rufus Cutler says that if May Thomas went to that school he would be next to the poorest reader in school. Beman is wonderful in figures but he cannot read a bit. He can add a line of figures any length you will give him, or he will add units in his head as you give them or he can mark any figure as far up as thousands that you tell him, or he can count a hundred by twos or by threes or by fours. Rufus Cutler says he is real smart. They have a week's vacation and I think that is as long as any of us can tolerate.

Beman was six

Marietta March 30, 1876.

Little Joanna grows finely and we have already

Betsey Gates Mills
"Aunt Bettie"

had several good offers for her. ***Mary makes pants and coats and vests and then begins and goes back. She has not one boy to spare but how she is ever going to get them to man's estate I cannot tell and the girl is just as hard to manage but they are lovely.

Marietta, April 13, 1876.

Dear Aunt Bettie:

Eleven years old

I am having a good time these days and I hope you are. I recite Latin to Professor Beach with Allen at half past six o'clock in the afternoon. I like Geography and Spelling the best of any studies I have except Latin. Jim (Crow) and the cat, the two most important members of the family are quite well and flourishing. Allen Beach, Charlie Mills, Rufus, Walter Beach and myself all went out to the farm Saturday and took our dinners. We caught three bull frogs (the most successful frog hunt yet) and one crayfish. The cemetery trustees are making a little lake in the cemetery and I think it is very pretty. The spring keeps it full of water. But if it were not so deep I would not care, for it is full of holes and is over my head. Last night I was up at Grandmother's all night. Grandmother heard a screech owl after a robin, but I heard a blue bird on an apple tree. Beman's handwriting is not very beautiful but he has been playing ball and I guess his hand trembles. I went to Pittsburgh about two weeks ago. **We went to the St. Charles Hotel and stayed there all night. Then Father went to his business and I went with him. Just as I was in the middle of the last sentence the cat ran in with a robin, I jumped at her and she ran under the bed and dropped the robin. I picked it up and held it in my hand a little while and then took it outdoors and

put it on a tree. I don't know whether it will live 'till morning but Father thinks it will. After Father was through with his business he took me to the glass works and I saw them make lamp chimneys. Then I went to Mr. Pitcairn's office to see the railroad. There are ever so many tracks there and cars.

Your affectionate nephew,

Chas. G. Dawes

Marietta, Oct. 12, 1876.

How do you fellows feel to be defeated? Pretty slim. Follett flaunts his flag in our faces. President Andrews and Gen. Smith came from New York on purpose to vote and the train was a little late and they started to walk and got as far as Mr. Cutler's old place and gave out. I think if I had been a man and had a right to vote I should have stolen a horse and run. Well, November may tell another story and Hayes may be president yet.

Oct. 15, 1876.

Beman has the whooping cough and of course Sister will take it and the little Beaches and so help me half the town. There is a winter's job on hand.

Marietta, Dec. 28, 1876.

Dear Aunt Bettie:

Six years old

I did get a portfolio and a game of snap and a book from Sister and a gun and a horn from Mamma because she wanted me to keep still. Thursday night grandmother had a taffy pulling she had the Beaches and Blauvelts and chollyshedd and all of us children and Mamma, we each had a plate of teffie and we did coast down her hill.

Beman Gates Dawes

Marietta, Dec. 29, 1876.

Dear Aunt Bettie:

We are having a deep snow storm. Sister is out playing in the snow with Beman's pantaloons on rolling around in the snow. She looks funny. We boys built a fort big enough for 7 or 8 boys to get in with a cover on it, it was more like a Esquimo house, it is very warm inside of it. We boys went out to Grandmother's to pull taffy, when we got out there the taffy was not done so we had to play Lost Heir, a game Charlie got for Christmas. When the taffy was done we all went out to pull it. C. Shedd, D. Blauvelt, E. Blauvelt, A. Beach, Charley, Me, Beman, Sister and Mamma. When we was done pulling we boys and Annie and William and Kate Lehnhardt went out and slid down hill and did not get home till 8:30.

Yours affectionately,

Rufus Cutler Dawes.

Marietta, Dec. 31, 1876.

I must tell you about our taffy pulling up here. I told the boys they might invite the Beaches and the Shedds and the Blauvelts up here Thursday evening to make taffy. Altogether we made 14 and I took white sugar and made it your way, filling 12 tea plates and three dinner plates. The boys each pulled his own plate full and then had it to take home of course so they ate their own dirt, while Mary and Annie and I pulled that in the larger plates. They brought up their games and played till the taffy was ready for them and then after we were through they had a time of sliding down the hill in the moonlight. They went home about 8:30. If you want to have a merry time try it.

1877

The year Henry was born

Marietta, January 14, 1877.

The boys have had a delightful time skating below Mrs. Kuntz'. Beman has in regular succession fallen heir to your old skates that are pretty good yet. Rufus Cutler bought a pair that Charlie Brown had outgrown, and Charlie has the pair that Henry Bosworth had outgrown so they are all pretty well fixed for skating and they each have a sled. Today is Henry Bosworth's and Beman's birthday.

Marietta, January 21, 1877.

My dinner party for Beman's birthday which was a week ago today came off yesterday. I had Mary's family and Auntie's family. For dessert, apple dumplings with whipt cream on. This whipt cream is made by whipping cream that is made sweet enough with a Dover egg beater till it is all foam. I confess to being relieved when the party broke up. I felt like saying with some old historic character I don't remember who "Disperse ye rebels." I believe I love my grand-boys as well as anybody's grandmother but don't I get tired though!

Marietta, February 18, 1877.

Mrs. Goebel my neighbor had another boy on Valentine's day which she had better give him for a name. I hope the list of boys will be exhausted before it comes our turn over at Mary's for I think another boy would be a lick too much.

Marietta, April 25, 1877.

Henry was born April 22.

That new baby boy is such a set back to my nerves. I suppose it is all right for I know that the Lord knows best but if it had been a little girl we might have been able to stand it and that's about all. But a boy! that is a lick too much. He is a right nice baby though for all, and if it were not for the riotous army that preceded him he might have had a joyful greeting. He was pretty warmly welcomed as it was. He looks like Charlie and all the children are delighted with him.

Marietta, April 29, 1877.

Our baby is just a week old today and she is still a boy. It did seem as if maybe we should find ourselves dreaming. But he is a mighty nice little fellow and as good as can be and real pretty. We can hardly tell who he looks like. Mary is getting along very nicely though she has not yet been out of bed. Mary Frances is a case. I try to keep her up here in the day time and take her home at night. She says she is going to teach Henry to talk as soon as she can, so he can tell her all about Heaven (for he just came from there) and tell her what Kitty is doing. Rufus Cutler asked his mother if she was not very much surprised to have a baby, he says it was a great surprise to him. Beman says he knows all about it, Henry was made of dust and who knows but what we have been kicking him around like that rag baby at school. Charlie wants to know if he has lived long enough so that we are sure he wont die. So you see that he is a never failing source of pleasure to us all, notwithstanding we hid our faces from him. Well what else do you suppose has happened there since the little mother is in bed? Oh nothing, only Beman has got the measles. Did

you ever see such a little rascal? Last fall he spread the whooping cough all over town and a year ago the chicken pox and now at this auspicious time turns up with the measles and all five of them to come down with it. Don't it beat the Dutch! I go to bed and sleep right straight through the night and wake up refreshed in the morning ready to renew the attack upon all discouragements. So you see though I wash two or three of the children all over twice a week and take care of the girl in the day time and the boys at night and just feel like scolding all the time if I could catch anybody long enough to scold, yet for all of this I call myself as good at a job like this as anybody you will find.

Marietta, May 20, 1877.

From Beman Gates:

Mary sent me a note this morning saying they were all convalescent. You know I suppose that Rufus Cutler and Mary F. took the measles of B. G., and R. C. was very sick. Then on Wednesday I think Charlie cut his foot, running barefoot, and only began to walk on it this morning. Beman stubbed his toe yesterday, pretty badly, but he walked up here this morning to get his shoes which he left here Friday evening. As he was coming up the steps he gave his sore toe a *double*-stub, so that he couldn't put his shoe on, and I don't believe he will be able to for several days. They are the "beatenest" children ever I saw.

Marietta, May 27, 1877.

Charlie is today just in the midst of the measles just a complete blotch his face is with it. So that Mary has had already three installments of it

and the baby still to have it. First Beman took it then Mary F. and Rufus C. and now Charlie.

Marietta, July, 1877.

Our boys have been having a great time tenting out as they call it. They got some of the old burlaps out at the barn and took it over home to make tents of and fixed their poles and put up two tents and took out comforts and blankets and pillows for beds and made preparation for their breakfast which they were to cook for themselves. The campers out were our three boys, the three Beaches and two Blauvelts. They went to bed about eight o'clock telling stories and feeling very big and old and living like soldiers and thinking it was all very fine. But the mamas and papas had some anxiety about them for the Blauvelts came over after ten o'clock and the Beaches had to look in upon them and Rufus Senior was up about every fifteen minutes to see about them lest somebody would try to scare them or something. But the night passed comfortably for there was a bright moon and plenty of toads and the old cat and four kittens to walk over them. They were up before four o'clock and cooked their eggs and had their bread and butter but they could not make their coffee. However, they think it was all very fine and want to try it again under Mrs. Beach's windows, but I doubt if they get the permission. They have all been very sleepy and our boys a little headachy today.

Marietta, Oct. 21, 1877.

Five years old

Yesterday you know was our wedding day and we tried to remember it by having Mary and all the children here in the afternoon. Little Sister came up in the morning to make bouquets for the bride

and she inquired if I was going to marry Uncle Will. She seemed quite surprised when I told her that I was going to marry grandfather every time. She evidently thought that we were going to have such another wedding as yours. So our wedding day ended and its 36 years gone by with as little to mar its happiness as falls to the lot of mortals. With much to forgive and many faults to hide, our mutual love is greater each for the other today than it was the day we were first married. Our years have marked the milestones in our happy lives together that few in the whole world can equal.

Marietta, Oct. 25, 1877.

This is Fair time and your father sent up two kinds of squashes and five of each kind. Of the Chili squashes one weighed 150 pounds and one weighed 125. Of the Valperaiso squashes one of them weighed 62 pounds. These last are more like the Hubbard and are a nice eating squash. Our boys are to have the premiums if there are any, or they may sell them either. Now let squashes drop.

Marietta, Nov. 2, 1877.

This afternoon I went over to Mary's to tea and there she was with her troop of children as happy as if she had not a care in the world. Rufus Senior is not at home so they all sleep in her room. She says there is one in bed with her, and on one side of the bed is a lounge that holds one, and on the other side of the bed the big cradle with another and the two boys in a bed on the floor. She says it is a great treat to them all to sleep together.

Marietta, Nov 11, 1877.

I am going to keep little Sister while your father

is gone and try and tone her down a little. I suppose your father is with you today. I dressed myself this afternoon and sat down to my knitting to wait for Uncle Barty and Aunt Jennie and they did not come and I waited and waited and then sat down to supper just little Sister and I and finally sent down to Mr. Goebel's to have Josie and Henry come up and sleep here and was disappointed enough in the prospect before me, and the very black clouds promised rain if not wind and we here away from everybody with only Bill Kuntz for neighbor. The prospect was not at all enlivening. But presently way off in the dark and almost down to the gate I heard the cheering "Hallo the house" repeated again and again and I knew Uncle Bartlett's voice and my eyebrows raised to the top of my head and the corners of my mouth up to my ears and my voice lost its huskiness and I sent back the greeting.

Marietta, Nov. 20, 1877.

Since our last little scare about Bill Kuntz I don't feel much like being alone. When you think of his being in and out of our culvert you may guess that the proximity of his darling mother does not tend to quiet my fears. The fact is if their house should happen to burn down I would be willing to contribute largely to buying her a house in some other part of town. If only bars and bolts will hold him now I shall feel easier. You know his wife is in the penitentiary now and has been for some time.

Marietta, Dec. 5, 1877.

From Grandfather:

Bill Koontz and all other prisoners (6 or 7 in number) walked out of jail last evening and none

of them have been re-captured. They sawed the hinges off the door.

Marietta, Dec. 12, 1877.

My terror by night and by day that awful Bill Kuntz is still at large I wish he was safe for a good long term of years in Columbus. Mrs. Rosseter says she is expecting an attack all the time, too. It seems that when he was in college at the time that Fry was expelled Bill Kuntz came to her when the Professor was gone and asked for the key. She went up stairs and pretended to look for it with her eyes shut and came down telling him that she did not see it and possibly the President might have it. He went right up there and he told him it was down to Rosseters. So she thinks he knew she was telling a lie and she expects him back to pay her for it some of these dark nights. I don't know of any spite he has against me for I treat the family with all the respect I can I am sure. Someone stole a shirt of Mr. Rosseter that was on the clothes bar in the kitchen, and took a chicken and some milk and some canned fruit out of Meliss' Buell's cellar and were in Biscoe's cellar twice.

Marietta, Dec. 23, 1877.

We stayed alone here while your father was gone but the moon was so bright that the first night I did not feel afraid at all. But the second night I don't know how I can better describe my condition than in the language of the Psalmist "While I sleep my heart waketh" only I don't know as that is exactly the way that David said it. My heart beat pretty loud that night I tell you. I went down town Friday afternoon and heard from Ed Dale himself

that somebody got into their house and they could not tell how but they got all they had cooked. They also tried old Mrs. Barclay's house. Ed Dale said they were coming up to my house the next night and I told him I believed it for I was looking for them or him (Bill Kuntz) all the time. They have had a special police on Fourth street since then. Beman got the prize in a class of five in spelling and he cannot read yet. He can do almost any kind of sum in the simple rules or mixed or vulgar fractions or federal money by just listening to the classes. In fact he is quite a prodigy in figures. He brought up his card to show to grandfather because his father told him that would please him so well because grandfather was such a wonderful speller. The other boys average about 95 which taking in all their studies is very well. The baby has four new teeth and is creeping on all fours and turns himself over and sits up. So you see he is learning too. And little Sister can spell anything that Beman can and so she is smart and they are all smart but troublesome.

Marietta, Dec. 28, 1877.

Christmas day we took dinner with Mary and she had her tree as she always does you know. I think she has never failed but once since Charlie was a year old and I can not tell when that was. The boys had for the most acceptable thing bows and arrows. And they are all pretty good archers. They spent the afternoon up here shooting apples off our hitching post (about a dozen boys) and Charlie knocked three off and Beman two and the next day Charlie killed a pigeon which was being a pretty sharp shooter. Little Sister got wash tubs and buckets and her twins which were the prettiest

things you almost ever saw. Their clothes were all made to come off and buttoned. The dresses were of black silk, long skirts trimmed with knife pleating and a bias ruffle above the overskirt with knife pleating and a little outside pocket with a hem-stiched kerchief in marked Lillie Dawes and the other one Rose Dawes. They had long, nice fitting basques finished with large cord coat sleeves open to the elbow with lisse ruffles in and also around the neck and each basque had nine buttonholes in, Rose was trimmed with pink ribin in her curls and around her neck and sleeves and Lillie with blue. Louise Lehnhardt trimmed them I never could have done it. Little Sister goes round with one in each arm and I don't think she has ever had anything she liked so well. Louise Rosseter has the whooping cough very badly.

Rufus R. Dawes

1878

An uneventful year except to Bill Kuntz

Father failed to get the nomination for Congress

Marietta, Jan. 6, 1878.

This is about the first real taste of winter we have had. There were about twenty boys out on our hill yesterday and they all came into the house to get warm and I sent them down to the furnace room and then they wanted a doughnut apiece and an apple apiece so by the time they were helped all around my pile was sensibly lessened.

Marietta, Jan. 21, 1878.

Friday was Mary's wedding day. As soon as dinner was over Rufus Senior took the boys up the Ohio in a skiff duck shooting. Beman says they heard ducks but did not see them but that Charlie almost shot a dove and his father said it was a very good shot indeed but I say a miss was as good as a mile to the poor pigeon. It is 14 years since Mary was married, January 18, 1864. Do you remember the morning of her wedding? It seemed to me that I would almost as soon have buried her at the time. How could I ever have lived without her. Only a little more than four months after that we buried our dear Charlie and what a comfort she was to me in those years of darkness and sorrow that almost overwhelmed me nobody knows. We seemed

to change places and she was a mother to me and a great comfort to your father who was almost crushed with Charlie's death. I got so that I could hardly do anything without asking Mary if it was best to do it. The feeling was not altogether on my part for as lately as when Beman was born (that was eight years ago) when she was under the influence of chloroform she said: "Don't let me die Doctor for mother cannot get along without me, mother cannot live without me".

Marietta, Feb. 3, 1878.

My friend Bill Kuntz was released yesterday and his wife made her appearance at the homestead a few days previous. Mother Kuntz has been coming over here twice within the last week and sitting for an hour or two, ostensibly she came for milk but I suppose she meant to tell me her troubles for that was what she seemed to do. She felt just as I do about *my* children as if she had brought hers up well and done well by them. Well I thought there must be a screw loose somewhere for the results are very different. She spoke very kindly of Bill's wife. She said her daughters wanted her to turn Matt out of the house but she could not do it so she went to the factory and got chairs for her to cane. She says that Rolston told Bill he would give him employment at the mill if he would behave himself. I don't dare to succor them or befriend them at all for fear they will arise some night and kill us all of a sudden but somebody ought to give such people a chance to redeem themselves.

Bill told Mrs. Rolston he could not keep himself from starving unless he did steal nobody would employ him.

Marietta, Feb. 10, 1878.

The Shedds are coming this week and just think of it there will be ten children there in one yard, five of the Dawes tribe and all boys but Sister, and five Shedds.

Marietta, Feb. 17, 1878.

I have not seen anybody for days only my own folks and the Kuntz tribe. I keep a sharp lookout for Bill I tell you though I have not had a glimpse of him yet.

Marietta, Feb. 21, 1878.

Little sister has been up here for a day or two and we have had a very good visit from her. Mrs. Shedd has a little boy younger than Sister that she calls Eph and looks so much like Eph Dawes that you can hardly keep from laughing every time you look at him. Sister wanted him to come up here and stay all the time she did and I think the pleasant company at home probably shortened her visit. This fellow is a great talker and a real jolly boy. He talks like the darkies and he tells of going a missionary to Persia as if he knew just what he was doing and what for too. The burglars got into Dick Woodruff's cellar the other night and divided the victuals between themselves and the family. They took the half of the roast and half of the loaf of cake and half of the pies and all the milk. They were up in the dining room but did not touch the silver that was on the table. I am afraid that it is my friend Kuntz for as soon as he was out of jail this work commenced again.

Marietta, March 3, 1878.

I don't know as you remember that this is

Mary Frances' birthday and that the young lady is six years old. She chose to make the day memorable by taking tea with us, she and Beman. Not that a visit from them is so remarkable but it seems to suit her fancy. She tried to get her grandfather to go down and tell her mother that they were going to stay all night, but one afternoon is about as long as my nerves will bear. She had her tea party yesterday and as usual had a very pleasant time. Mrs. Rosseter, Mrs. Beach and myself were all the older persons. She got two very pretty teaspoons and a very handsome napkin ring and some ruffles. Mrs. Manatt has two children that have the same birthday with little Sister, one is three and one is five and Sister is six. It keeps us celebrating somebody's birthday all the time. Little Henry's comes next month. Then there are two in July and two in August and two in January, the two Bemans, and yours in February and mine is in November. I should think the Dawes tribe now the Shedds are here might take the town. There are nine boys there, besides all the boys in the neighborhood are together all the time out of school. Mary says she does not expect to have a spear of grass left when the summer is over much less a shrub or tree. They are a nice set of boys the whole thirteen of them.

Marietta, March 10, 1878.

Yesterday was Auntie's sixty-third birthday so Mary and I got up a surprise party for her which we carried through quite successfully. I made two kinds of cake cocoanut cake and a spiced cake with raisins in it and some biscuits and butter and I furnished the oysters and Mary scalloped them and made the coffee and furnished the cream and sugar and brown bread and Aunt Jennie the canned pears

and pickles. But the most troublesome thing was Auntie herself what to do with her was the question. You know she does not keep a girl and when she locks up the house there is nobody at home. Just after dinner she came over here when I remarked to her that I thought she was enough like her mother to spend her birthday in fasting and prayer. She said that she had entirely forgotten the day. Your father said that we were going to her house to spend the evening and I was going out to make calls in the afternoon. She said she would go home and build up the parlor fire. But as I wanted to take over my things in the carriage to Mary's I could not ask her to ride with us and so had to wait until she went away herself. On my way after I had got her off I stopped at Sue Morris' to go and clean up after us and she had just been there. After I had deposited my load at Mary's I went over to Auntie's to get her to go and call with me and to see where she had put her key when she locked up and get word to Mary which I accomplished. We went up to Henry Hays' and up on that street and were back to tea at six. When we got most home Pom Wells told us to hurry home or we would lose our supper and she asked what he meant. But a few steps brought us to the house where she saw the gas all lighted then she knew what I had been doing and it was the first suspicion. Mary met us at the door and such a shouting and *hulabolu!* There was Mrs. Dawes and Lucy, Miss Tinkham, Mrs. Shedd and children and Bartlett and Jennie and your father and Rufus and all the children making about twenty in all. Uncle Bosworth got home while Mary was setting her table so he had time to wash up and get on a clean shirt. Somebody sent Auntie two dozen bananas which she got in the morning but

she never thought of her birthday. The whole thing went off charmingly and it was all right that she should be remembered for she is always doing something nice for other people. The End.

Marietta, March 22, 1878.

I did not write Wednesday evening as usual because Rufus Cutler came up here to stay all night and he had to be entertained. He has stayed here two nights this week and he has not been here before for a great while. He is more of a homebody than either of the other boys and we have to give him more attention than the others to keep him from being homesick. I think sometimes he is the best of the lot then my heart runs back after Charlie. Not that I think that he looks like our Charlie but because he came when our hearts were so sore and he seemed to be a kind of diversion. Then Beman has your father's name and he has a way of running to me when in trouble. If Sister ever gets tamed down and not so rude she will be very attractive. She is very pretty and as smart as a steel trap. And Henry has his attractions too, for all he was so unwelcome to me when he came he has found the way to my heart. I should think he is more quiet and gentle than any of the others and real handsome. He will be a year old next month and by that time he will be walking. He crept from the bottom of my stairs to the top stopping on the landing to see how I was taking it. But that is enough about children. ***Bill Kuntz is still at liberty and so I am on nettles most of the time.

Marietta, April 13, 1878.

Dear Aunt Bettie:

Eleven years old

I am having a good time now playing tickey or

cat, tickey and cat are the same game. I am improving in school. I used to do an example in about 15 minutes now I can do 7 in 15 minutes. Beman is learning to spell, read and write very fast. I stood 96 in reading and 88 in Arithmetic and 98 in Geography. Ninety-seven is as high as we can stand in reading in our school. Grandfather has got a calf. The old cow is very mad now. I went in the barnyard and it ran at me with his head down. I ran out fast enough you may be sure.

From your affectionate

Rufus Dawes.

Marietta, April 16, 1878,

Bill Kuntz slipped out of jail in McConnellesville and left his wife there but he himself sojourns in our neighborhood. I never go out to close the shutters after dark but I expect him to catch me before I get in.

Marietta, April 28, 1878.

This afternoon Mary and Rufus and all the children were up here to tea. We put Henry up to the table in the cover of the sewing machine set in a chair. He was highly delighted with the situation as were the rest of us for he jabbered all the time thinking he was doing his full share in the entertainment. The older boys are getting so big that you will hardly know them and are growing every day. Beman will be small.

Marietta, June 23, 1878.

This afternoon your father and I went down to hear President Andrews' Baccalaureate. It concerned their duty to their fellow men, to themselves and to their country. He is very much more likely

to take up some such subject than metaphysics. He is a good deal of a statesman and was once a little inclined to politics I guess for he was a candidate for the Constitutional Convention. He would like to rule the world as well as anybody I know of.

Marietta July 4, 1878.

Our boys have for the last week given themselves to hunting wasps' nests and bumblebees and to going in swimming. I don't know how Mary is to stand having four boys to go in the water.

Marietta, July 12, 1878.

The Beach family and the Dawes tribe had a picnic. They went up on the Kitty Nye and took their skiff with them up to the head of the island and then went in swimming and had their suppers and then floated down by moonlight in their boat. It does seem as if Mary racked her brains to give those children pleasure. Henry is the pride of the flock and never frets and cries and is not afraid of anybody or anything.

Marietta, August 4, 1878.

Rufus Senior is crazy on politics and your father says there is no hope of the election of a Republican in this district. I think he is a born politician and he would make a good representative but it is not the best men that always win.

Marietta, August 7, 1878.

Our boys with the neighbors ten in all camped out in their yard last night. Their tent is made of an old rag carpet thrown over poles and the ground covered with carpet, then they all have pillows. There was a lantern hung out and they changed

guards every hour. Beman was guard from 8 to 9 o'clock. They built a little furnace where they made chocolate and fried eggs and potatoes and had an elegant time so they all thought. I don't see how Mary can be at so much trouble to please such a crowd of boys. Her patience is inexhaustible.

Marietta, August 13, 1878.

Mary will come walking up here in the evening as clean and as sweet as a new blown rose to see how her father is before she goes to bed. Mary Frances went over to see Katy Elston yesterday afternoon and was told by her mother not to stay to tea. When she got home she said she had two invitations one from Mrs. Mills to take tea with her and the other from Katie and Eleanor Hawkes to take tea in their tent. She was obedient and came home but she thought as we all did that it was pretty hard to decline two such invitations. *** Your father is about to bring Daisy home from the pasture and in order to take care of her at home is going to stand her down in the valley and build a portable fence around her. Won't such a pretty cow with such a pretty little fence round her look pretty down in the valley?

Marietta, August 18, 1878.

My friend Kuntz says he shall steal no more and he has bought him a buckboard and an old nag and he is scouring the country for eggs, butter and chickens for the Reunion and is going to trading.

Marietta, August 22, 1878.

I suppose you rejoice with us that Rufus did not get the nomination. Mary is the best pleased of anybody. She is just like an India rubber ball,

remove the pressure and it is as good as ever. ***The whole town is alive with the Reunion.

Marietta, September 7, 1878.

I am ashamed of myself that I did not write as usual on Wednesday but the truth is I was running after the soldiers (Reunion). Well I am glad this wicked carnival is over. It was just as much of wickedness and of drunkeness and the like as could well be brought together. Our mayor was of no account and our police was of the same piece so everybody got drunk that wanted to and had fights and no regard to the rights of others. Beulah saw a lady in silks so drunk that she could hardly walk and I saw a strange gentleman handsomely dressed carried along between two men and he could hardly make his feet go. The women were as bad as the men and worse. However we have lived through it and I guess there is nobody willing to try it over. We have today settled down to the old quiet and nobody richer but the whiskey men and all of us tired and out of patience.

Marietta, Oct. 13, 1878.

Father and Mother were in New York, where Father was called to testify in the Fitz-John Porter case.

This blessed baby, Henry, is a great hindrance in the way of writing letters. He is just as good as can be in the day time though he wants me to take care of him all the time but I have no language to describe his behavior at night. We brought up his big cradle for him to sleep in as usual thinking if he could be gently rocked that he would be quiet and sleep and not know till the day dawn that he was away from home. It is needless for me to say that I spent the most of that night in trying the experiment. The next night—oh I forgot to mention that just at dusk Beman ran off and of course your father had to go and hunt him up

and bring him home from Grandmother Dawes. The next night which was Wednesday your father left us (on a business trip to Cincinnati) and to let the other boys have a chance to make us a visit I had them come up here while he was gone. That night I spent most of the time in lifting Henry into the bed with me and putting him back into the cradle. In the morning the boys came in and he found it was the grandmother instead of his mother and such a look of astonishment and contempt at my hypocrisy was just laughable. Thursday night he just was very moderately good so that I can say I slept some considerable, but Friday night he screeched and screamed until I could not stand it any longer and I got up and lighted the lamp so that he could see to howl and make himself as miserable as he saw fit. I thought then that the next night I would sit up with him but he did very well only he wants to get up about five o'clock and that don't suit the convenience of my household and I don't propose conforming to his pleasure so I make him lie there until six and then I call Maggie the nurse and then she goes about the house making as much noise as the boys could so that unless I am *clean* beat out I don't sleep much after I get rid of him. I think tonight I will take him into my bed the first thing and then let him cry it out.

Marietta, Dec. 25, 1878.

A merry Christmas! ***I can not tell you all the things the children got for their name is legion. The children got everything you can think of umbrellas and gloves and boots and fifes and guns and rocking horses and dolls and carriages for dolls and handkerchiefs and books and pencils and games and things too numerous to mention. Mary has just

worked night and day for it and I am sure I don't know how she held out to get through with it. The day passed off very pleasantly over there and to-night our children are invited over to Mrs. Waters.

Marietta, Dec. 26, 1878.

Dear Aunt Bettie:

It is Sunday night and Sister has just gone to bed in her playhouse. It is very nice. Mother fixed it all right with the curtains and things. Louise Rosseter sent her up a little sofa for her doll. And mother gave her a chair. And Annie gave her a tidy for it. And these with her Bureau complete her furniture. Papa got her the prettiest doll she ever had. He got it in Pittsburgh while he was there. Aunt Julia gave her a little lamb with a ribbon round its neck. I got a knife, a game of Logomachy or War of Words, a nerve test, a pair of gloves, a tippet, a little Flageolet and some handkerchiefs and a pen wiper. Rufus got a little cannon with balls and nine pins to shoot at, a tippet, a top, some gloves, some handkerchiefs and a pen wiper. Beman got a gun, a train of cars, a whip, some handkerchiefs and a tippet and a pen wiper and a book. Tell grandmother to be sure and bring me some skates.

I wish you a merry Christmas.

From your affectionate nephew,

Charles Dawes.

Marietta, Dec. 29, 1878.

The boys have been enjoying the hill with their sleds and Beman beats the crowd and Mary F. is not far behind any of them. They start down from near the bridge this side of the mound and run down the valley a piece and cross the frozen brook and down on the other side most to the lower bridge.

1879

Charlie began to sing and play the picolo

Grandmother wrote a postal card to Rufus Cutler

Bill Kuntz reached the Penitentiary

Marietta Jan. 15, 1879.

I don't see why Mary don't go raving crazy. In the morning she has to get them all up and see that they are washed and off to school and as soon as they come home the first question is, "Boys are your feet wet? Then take off your boots and stockings and put on these old ones while yours dry." Then she has to see that they do get dry and get on again and that they get off to school again. This has to be gone through with three times before she gets them to bed. Then the clothes are to be mended. Charlie was up here one night a week or so ago and he wanted me to sew on his buttons which I did. I don't know how long some of them had been off but I sewed on thirteen counting all the garments. I presume they had all got off within a few days. They are the rowdiest set I ever saw and not a bad one amongst them only they do make work. It is all one person ought to do to patch and mend and darn for them.

Marietta, Jan. 19, 1879.

The two older boys are spending the night. Charlie is on the lounge with the headache and a towel of cold water on his head and Rufus is wrigling and twisting and rolling about trying to read the early history of Ohio. Sometimes he sits on his back and sometimes he lies on his belly but he is not still one moment either whistling or scratching on the table. Uneasy mortal. I believe if I had the management of that boy the first thing I would teach him would be to keep still. He is not ugly at all only annoying and Mary Frances is just like him. We had hickory nuts this afternoon and she took her saucer and laid flat on her stomach to eat them stretched out on the floor. Do you suppose you ever did that way? I'll bet you got whipped if you did.

Marietta, Jan. 23, 1879.

In the evening your father and I went to the Club at Mrs. Rosseter's. Prof. Beach read Porter's article on Poetry and Prof. Biscoe on Patent Laws. Prof. Kendrick said we ought to read more poetry and I think so too. It gives great flow of language and ease of expression that is not acquired by reading prose. He says that novel reading has taken the place of poetry. When I was young we used to read a great deal of poetry and few novels. It was the better kind too generally. I remember reading Milton and Scott and Cowper and Young and Pollock (I could repeat many pages of him). My grandmother was always repeating Burns so of course I read more or less of his works. But Shakespeare I was not expected to read though I cannot remember that it was absolutely forbidden but Byron was, though I confess I did surreptitiously read

Childe Harold and Don Juan and some other things. I think perhaps it made more impression on my mind because it was prohibited. But there were years and years that I should have been ashamed to say I had read Byron and I have a little of that feeling yet. I don't know as my style of writing or conversation has been greatly benefitted by reading poetry but it ought to have been. There is one thing that I know, that is that I do not understand myself.

Marietta, Jan. 26, 1879.

Beman broke through the ice while skating on Red River between Third and Fourth streets and he thinks was almost drowned though I think he would have to lie down pretty flat to drown in all the water there is there. However he was very much frightened and I hope has learned a salutary lesson. His mother and he had a very tender melting time over it which I hope clinched the impression. I think the great question of the age is what shall or can be done with boys.

Marietta, Jan. 29, 1879.

I do think Henry is the very nicest of any of the babies. He came up here and stayed with me Monday because his mother was so busy and he just talked the whole day long. He makes short sentences now and they are correctly arranged and his pronouns are all right which is more than most babies can. Ask him to sing for you and he will sit up with as grave a face and sing away as if he thought he was entertaining you all right, though I confess his singing is a little after the fashion of Rufus' (Sen) and the rest of the Daweses.

Marietta, Feb. 2, 1879.

Charlie came up here again to spend the night. He is just learning to sing. He can sing alto first rate and it is really very good music that we make, grandfather and he and I. He sings off as freely as any of us and I think by adding Mary to the trio we should make an excellent quartette. We don't sing as much as we used to.

Marietta, Feb. 19, 1879.

I had the children and the Shedds come up here and stay all night Monday that is six of them and they wanted to make taffy and parch corn and crack nuts and I just let them and helped them too. We all enjoyed it very much.

Marietta, Feb. 23, 1879.

I went down to church this morning in the wind and the slush and it did me no good. I am so much occupied with the reformed men that sit before me that I could not keep my thoughts off of them (after the Hammond meetings). Then the sermon did not even enter my ears much less my mind. Then the singing, the Dr. said *omit the second verse* and of course that was the one they *sung*. Your father omitted it and sung the third verse while the choir sung the second and with the greatest unction, and everybody around us stopped singing but he went ahead till he finished his verse. The red faces and suppressed grins told the effect on the congregation.

Marietta, March 9, 1879.

Nannie Herdman and husband are not going around the world after all. She thinks her little

boy is the smartest fellow that ever was but I will put little Henry against him for bright and smart and pretty.

Marietta, March 30, 1879.

I went over to the church on the hill (Presbyterian) this morning as your father was not very well and did not feel like going. Mary did not go so I went with Rufus and the children. Charlie went first then Rufus Cutler then Beman (went through over into the pew with grandmother Dawes) then I came next then Mary Frances then her father. We almost filled the meeting house. I told Uncle Barty as I went over I had to stop and count them two or three times so as to be sure they did not run off and hide so as to get rid of going to church. It is more of a mystery to me every day how they know anything about them when there are so many to watch. Charlie and Rufus Cutler and I sung out of the same book and when Charlie's voice cracked a little Rufus would have to giggle. Then he is such a wiggler it is enough to drive me frantic to sit next to him. I think he sat on his waist and shoulder blades most of the time with his knees on top of the bench in front of him. However I can say this of the child he is not a bad boy but a real smart troublesome one. Mary Frances did first rate, neither troubled her father or me. Mr. Addy preached about David the man after God's own heart. I think David's heart was pretty wicked, and prone to evil as the sparks to fly upward, he must have been on the stool of repentance the most of the time, his crimes were pretty black. But Mr. Addy made a good deal of his being the sweet singer of Israel. Your father says David was a pretty hard old customer.

Marietta, April 27, 1879.

Dear Aunt Bettie:

When you come home will you please bring Grandmother Dawes some coffeenuts? Please bring me a rubber ball for a nickle. All the trees are in bloom, Mamma's crabapple tree full, my peach tree the blossoms have gone off of it, there are some apricot trees growing in a yard. There is a Chinaman here he boards at Mr. Bailey's. Mrs. Maria Woodbridge teaches him he is in the fourth reader. I am in Geograpyh and Arithmetic and reading and speling and wring. I am the captain of the pioneers a bass ball club. us boys have A flour garden, Richmond Waters Arthur Beach and I we have twenty kinds of flours and all the flours are not set out Mr. Ewart's barn burnt down thursday. old Mrs. ewart jumped threw the blaze and let the cow and calf out it burnt clear down. Beman G. Dawes.

Marietta, April 27, 1879.

Charlie says tell Aunt Bettie to bring home her bow and arrows. I suppose he wants to see how well you can shoot and then show you how well he can do it.

Marietta, April 27, 1879.

Dear Aunt Bettie,

I write to you because I want you to bring your bow and arrow when you come home. How can you shoot now. I am going to get me a bow, a 35c one. We can set up a target up at Grandmother's and have a gay old time. Bring all your arrows. I have got two or three. I went out hunting with my gun and got a couple of Birds. I wonder if Uncle Will would let you bring his American Boys Book. You can take it back again. I have lost mine. I ride

our horse now. He rides hard. He kicks up. Father has got a great big piece of land away up in West Virginia full of wolves and rabbits and partridges. I am going up there in vacation. Ewart's barn got set afire. Col. Mill's yard was full of people watching it. It was set on fire in the night. I can play with Mother now on my picolo pretty good. I want you to be sure and bring your bow and arrows. I am in the B class nine. It beat the A class nine 2 out of 3 games. Bring some coffeenuts. Get them of Mart Ousley or Walligan or Sloanigan. I went out fishing and got in quicksand up to my waist and had to walk 2 miles home all over mud. I caught ten minneys. I have quit going afishing. We have a Chinaman here his name is Nu Kim, he is in our Sunday School class. Ruf had a bow but he broke it. I had a shot at 12 quails with a bow. Went right into a group of four but missed them. Be is all right, so is Sister, so is Henry. Henry can sing. Grandmother has got her horse back. She has a new boy (hired man). Mother has just made Sister a dress. How soon will you come. Hurry up. Bring your bow. I am studying Cicero. Mother is well. I have a nice room. Mother had it papered. The sitting room is papered too. This is Sunday. Grandmother has a minister up to supper. I am not invited. Mother is and Father. Bring your bow.

Your nephew,

Chas. G. Dawes.

North Adams, Mass., June 8, 1879.

To Mother:

Saturday after dinner we took the train and went over to Williamstown about four miles. You know Grandfather Aaron Gates graduated there in 1805 and we both wanted to visit there. It is one

of the most beautiful places I ever saw. Cyrus W. Field gave them 10,000 dollars to beautify the town if they would take down all their yard and garden fences. There were two or three persons that were not willing to do so but the students took them down one night and burned them so they have spent nearly 9,000 dollars in parks and grading and setting out trees. Tell Pom Wells to go on (planting elm trees) he will immortalize himself and every house holder will bless him. The colleges proper are not any better than ours and their library is not nearly so large (only about 20,000 volumes) but their chapel is beautiful.

Fitz William, New Hampshire, June 22, 1879.
To Mother:

I suppose Rufus Cutler has received his postal card today or he will by tomorrow morning. I never even thought of writing much on Beman's card and if anybody had asked me the number of words on it I should not have said over a hundred but you say there were 355. When I commenced Rufus Cutler's card I thought I would just see what I could do so by spreading the subject matter very thin and not caring very much for the arrangement of sentences I made somewhere about 720 words. I think he will have no trouble in reading if his patience holds out for it is written plainly and I don't think anybody would stop to criticize the spelling. The only thing I am afraid of is that all the Postmasters will feel called on to read it and the card won't get to the end of its journey as soon as it ought to. It is quite a curiosity if I did write it myself. ***I suppose you all went to church today and Charlie for the first time took his seat among the students. If you do get all those four

Henry May Dawes

boys through college and they make smart good educated men and then make good use of their opportunities in doing good to others and getting good to themselves won't we all be happy though!

You said you were going to send me Beman's square (for my quilt). I have not yet received it and shall be very proud to put it in my quilt and one from Sister.

Marietta, July 19, 1879.

Dear Grandma:

I am sorry I did not write before. I did write once but I wrote so poorly that Mama would not let me send it. Papa and Mama and Be have gone to the Cantata or Flower Queen. Charlie has gone down to the Post Office. Sister and myself are the only ones at home except Henry asleep with Fido. We were all very pleased with presents Henry especially with his dog, he carries it all around, you could not have gotten him a better present. Last night the fire works went off on the park, the whole family went down. Papa lost the front door key, it has not been found yet. Tonight is Saturday night and I have been swimming four times this week. This morning we boys went out to duck creek, we made a raft and went in swimming three times, fought a bumble be's nest and came home to dinner, we ran most of the way in. Thursday night Papa took us over to the Island to see how good we could swim, he seemed to think we could swim pretty well for beginners. As we would tip the boat to dive a fish jumped into Papa's hat and there we caught it. it was a bass about eight inches long. Papa made Charlie wear his hat home,

Yours affectionately

R. Dawes. (Rufus Cutler of course)

Post Script by Mother:

Yesterday I said "Henry what is Grandfather going to bring you?" "Candy." "Well what else, go on." "A cooky." "What else?" "Dutch cheese." "What else?" "A hop toad." The funny part was his own keen appreciation of his wit, he laughed immoderately. The boys have taught him to say "Bobby Shafto has gone to grass."

October 13, 1879.

Grandfather to Grandmother in Crawfordsville:

Bill Kuntz had turned detective and had three boys arrested last week for stealing from Goebel's store. Two of them are in jail.

Our boys are all right and Charlie told me this morning that he and Be should each send their mother a letter today. It seems that Charlie and Rufus Cutler didn't go down to Mrs. Blackinton's yesterday but out to Duck Creek where they have been in the habit of going. The fact is I believe the boys are doing first-rate. But how *can* a man keep from worrying about them when they are perpetually on the jump, and doing the hardest kind of things in the hottest kind of weather? Yesterday for example Be and his party (four in all) gathered two hand-cart loads of walnuts a load of citrons, and some sweet potatoes, and hauled them over to town; and between working spells were chasing one another over the fields, and up and down Mt. Moriah. And twice I saw Be running with a Beach on his back, and R. Waters with a tow-headed boy (I guess a Stevenson) on *his* back! And (will you believe me?) I didn't yell at 'em once, nor scold 'em when they came for water, nor blow up Be when he tore his pants. But I *wanted* to the worst kind, and should have if I hadn't been afraid they would go

off where they would get killed sure before I could get to them.

Marietta, Oct. 29, 1879.

My friend William Kuntz is in prison again and this time for being mixed up in a murder case and the whole town is rather hoping that if he does not get hung or imprisoned for life that they will shut him up so long that he will forget his old ways and steal no more. We shall breathe more freely when we know that he is safe. Our sheriff says if he is once committed to him he will put irons on him and shut him up in the dungeon. He would not break out of that enclosure the second time. I don't know where his wife is but his mother called to me the other day as I was passing.

Marietta, Nov. 2, 1879.

We are having a little rest from our fears of incendiarism for Bill Kuntz is in jail and has been indicted for murder in the first degree. I think that the impression generally is that he is not guilty but everybody would be glad to have circumstantial evidence so strong as to shut him up for life. Rufus Cutler and Beman took tea here last evening. They behaved like little gentlemen, I don't know what has come over them. Beman says he raised the average of his school at the last examination. His average was 94. He likes Miss Green very much.

Marietta, Nov. 19, 1879.

To Grandfather in St. Paul:

Bill Kuntz came pretty near getting out of jail again. The girl that was in the melee at the time that Muncy was killed is staying at the jail but not kept very close and she burned a hole through

the floor of his room and might have helped him to tools so that he could have got out himself but she was discovered and shut up and he was put in the dungeon.

Marietta, Nov. 21, 1879.

To Grandfather in Kansas City:

I have Beman to sleep with me tonight but I have been alone most of the time this week. Mary went up to Beman's school yesterday and Miss Green gave such a good account of him and seemed so much interested in him that she came home so encouraged about him and he has been learning so fast that she cannot help feeling willing to spend the time with him in his studies that she has been doing.

Marietta, Nov. 27, 1879.

Mary has been in high feather, out on tiptoe making preparations for the great festival of Thanksgiving all the week. Annie went down early in the morning as soon as she got her work done to help till meeting time then she went to the German meeting. I notified Mary that I could not go till after meeting. Mary and Mrs. Dawes and Lucy and the two Shedd boys and Uncle Bosworth and Auntie and myself with their own family making in all fourteen. We had for soup, oyster with crackers, and slaw. Beman announced at the end of the first course that he had eaten two dozen oysters, and Rufus Cutler said he did not care how many he had eaten but he wanted to see how *long* he could be eating dinner. Our plates were removed and we had turkey at one end of the table and chicken pie at the other and Uncle Bosworth had two ducks to carve, and for vegetables we had mashed potatoes

and turnips and tomatoes and squash and onions and slaw and two kinds of pickles and celery and cranberry sauce. I can say I never saw a dinner better cooked or better served and we had as gentlemanly set of fellows at the table as you can find anywhere. Grandmother Dawes told Indian stories and Uncle Bossy told some and the children joined in the talk and I would have been glad to have the most fastidious find more to condemn than to praise, they could not have done it. We had just a pleasant social time. Then the table was cleared and brushed and we had cornmeal pudding and mince and cocoanut pies and after dinner cups of good coffee, then nuts and raisins and figs and dates. We sat at the table an hour and a half and Rufus Cutler was the first fellow to ask to be excused for all he thought the beauty of the dinner was in sitting a good while. ***I had a letter from your father from Council Bluffs and that made a pretty good Thanksgiving to be remembered in that way. He has been having a real nice time as he always does for somehow he has the happy faculty of meeting pleasant people and making pleasant friends.

Marietta, Dec. 7, 1879.

Your father came home Friday night. It seems right good to eat settled at home once more and have your father here. I got to be a little shy of staying here alone with Annie at night and Lawrence in the barn. We have a bell in his room hung up by his window that we can ring from the store room so that we could call him very easy, but Annie says he would stop at his own door and inquire if we rung the bell and if we wanted him to come in and a half dozen other questions that would give the burglars time to get in and kill us before we

Charles Gates Dawes

could get him started. However we have never been disturbed.

Marietta, Dec. 14, 1879.

I am going to write a part of my letter this morning for if the children pour in on us like a flood this afternoon I shall have to write this evening and that I should rather not do. The children! Why Charlie is bigger than I am with great big hands and feet and a coarse voice (but that don't keep him from trying to sing and he makes pretty good work of it too) and they all talk as loud as possible and as fast as they can as if they were afraid they should not be heard first. They come in upon us like a gust of the west wind. But they are good natured and have respect to the rights of each other. They are both of them splendid scholars. Charlie was the best of his class last week in their examination and it is a splendid class one of the best they ever had. That is being pretty good. And Rufus Cutler does not stand much behind him in scholarships though his class is two years after Charlie's. Beman is doing very well in his studies at Miss Green's school though he looks pale and puny and miserable. Mary teaches him at home and lets him go up there to recite. It is a great deal of trouble to her but he never could stand it to sit in such a crowded room of children. As for Mary Frances she is as smart as a cricket but I can not say she is a born lady or every inch a lady but she has good traits and I hope will have good training. Her grandfather gets the better of her by telling her how much she is like her Aunt Bettie so gentle and quiet. She poor child don't see through it at all and thinks Aunt Bettie was a little gentle lady and flatters herself that she is just like

her. As for Henry May, words fail me—he takes the world by storm. The children want their mother to teach him his letters (two and a half years old) and I am most inclined to join them in the wish. I think he is a prodigy and a very nice one too. He cannot be beat. He tells about the elephant and the monkey that he saw out to Aunt Bettie's and the music and the wagons. I don't see why he won't remember it always. And the poor mother of them all I don't see how she stands such a buzzing around her ears all day long. She is as bright and cheery as can be working every minute for some of them with head or feet or hands, or all three of them I better say. ***We hear that Bill Kuntz was convicted last night of manslaughter and so goes to the penitentiary. "Once again I'm free" in the language of the old song.

Burlington Vermont
July 20. 1880

My dear little boy Henry.

I thought I would write to you this time because I have written to sister and Berman and next week Rufus has a birth day and then I am going to write to him. and pretty soon I am going to write to Charlie. I have not had anything very much to write that was interesting to little boys only the bear story that I wrote to Berman and about the little fawn the lady caught in her arms when she was riding on the water. I will tell you a little more about that dreadful storm we had the other day. It was very dark and a very bad storm indeed and the poor little girl went running around the house crying and her mother could not stop to comfort her because she had to wipe up the water that came in at the doors and the windows where they got broken so I had her sit on the lounge with me behind the door and I put my arm around her and my hand on her heart because it beat so fast and there we sat till the storm was most over. I did not love her like I do sister but I felt so sorry for her because nobody had time to care for her

When the storm was over we all run around on the porches and picked up the hailstones that were real big and grandfather went to the front door to look out on the lake and away on the other side of it is a field that has nt any trees in nothing but grass. While he was looking over there, three animals came running out of the woods and they were red and two of them were pretty big and one was smaller and they went just skipping about over that field pretty lively. Grandfather told Mr Snow to look over there he believed they were deer. Yes Mr Snow said they were deer and being afraid in the woods in the storm they had run out into the open field. So we all had to run to see the deer and I said they were nothing but cows but when we looked through a field glass what do you suppose they were — nothing but red horses. I guess grandfather for got that time that a deer's tail is only about as long as up to your elbow and a horse has a long tail and mane. and I am sure I dont know why I should have thought they were cows for they have long tails too and they cannot run as fast as a deer or a horse, but they looked very pretty anyhow. Was nt that a funny story about grandfather. One of the ladies kept saying "for pity sakes." then we all laughed and forgot all about the hard storm

us over to Crown Point on lake Champlain out of the woods where the bears and the deer are. The man had two beautiful horses in an express wagon with our trunks and bags and umbrellas and our coats and everything we had put in to it just behind us and we started off on a beautiful road round the lake and some of the way the sun would shine on us then we would ride through the woods where the sun could n't shine through the trees were so thick. One of the horses just skipped and pranced all the way. He just went as fast as he could down hill then up the hill he did n't mind it all and the man did not have to whip him to make him go. But I think he was a naughty old horse for he would jump if he would see his own shadow or our umbrellas when the sun was shining on us. or he would scare at a chipmunk on the fence or a calf in the road or anything he did not mind what. I just had to hold my breath I was so much afraid. and bite my lips, and hold so tight to grandfather that he would most squeal. Then we had to go up the side of the mountain almost all the way close by the side of the railroad track and it was about time for the train to come up behind You can't think how bad I wanted to walk then but I did not dare to say so for the man thought he would do right

round a corner and there stood a horrid old engine steaming away. and that made our horse spring and jump as if he would rid off the ground altogether The man just took his stick and whipped him and whipped him and I was real glad of it he acted so naughty and he was such a pretty horse. After he got quieted again we drove down the mountain by the prettiest mountain stream, that roared and tumbled over the rocks and made pretty waterfalls that you children would have liked to play in I know. After a while we got to the lake as far as the horses were going to take us and you may be sure I was glad to get out of that wagon The most astonishing thing of all the events of the ride was that we should get there without having our necks broken. Dont you think so? Then we got on to the great big steamboat and rode up here on the beautiful lake and I did not feel afraid at all because there was no wind but it was pleasant. We stayed in Burlington at the big hotel all night and this morning the landlord brought us out on this beautiful street pretty near to where he has a farm and we are going to stay here awhile. We are nearly three miles from the hotel and in a very pretty place that runs down to the lake. I will write to your mother and Aunt Bettie about it. You must let your brothers all read this then let Annie and she will give you a piece of cake. You tell her I am going to write to her pretty soon. I guess Annie will give you a nice melon when she reads this letter and you may eat a piece for grandmother. Kiss your mama and sister on their right cheeks for me and on the left one for grandpapa. Now you must write me a pretty little letter and I can read it I know. for I will say I love my

grandmother

Marietta, Christmas Day, 1879.

A merry Christmas! We had a merry time for about an hour over to Mary's this morning. To begin with Charlie, he had your money purse into which Grandfather put two dollars, and into Rufus Cutler's one dollar, and Beman a pair of slippers and a half dollar, and to Mary Frances he gave two dollars, and a show wagon to Henry May (instead of Manasseh) and a pair of scissors to the mother and to me. They all got horns and guns and everything that you can think of. Charlie got an overcoat from his father and a pair of red socks from me that kept me at it night and day to get them done in time and then I carried them over this morning when I went over. There is no use trying to tell what they had for it would take too long and I don't remember. They did not have a tree but hung everything on a rope stretched across the room. Mary did not dare to work in the cedar for fear of the asthma. She is very much benefitted by wearing a bat of cotton tacked on her undershirt across her back and across her chest.

1880

In the summer Grandfather and Grandmother went East

In October Bessie was born

In October Father was elected to Congress

Marietta, January 1, 1880.

I am still pegging away at the children's socks and they wear them out faster than I can knit them. Charlie likes the red ones I knit for him and would like another pair of them but as he has a plenty of grey ones and wears boots I do not feel called on to indulge him. Henry seems to be the most needy just now so I am turning my attention towards him. He is just the smartest fellow you ever saw and as fat as butter. He is much the stoutest of any of the children. He has got so he don't like to stay over here without his mother and if she sends him over here for me to keep he always wants to go right back for his mama wants him.

Marietta, February 18, 1880.

Rufus Cutler came up tonight to stay with us all night and the consequence is that I did not commence my letter till he went to bed for I might as well try to write in Bedlam as where he is, he is such an incessant talker.

Marietta, February 26, 1880.

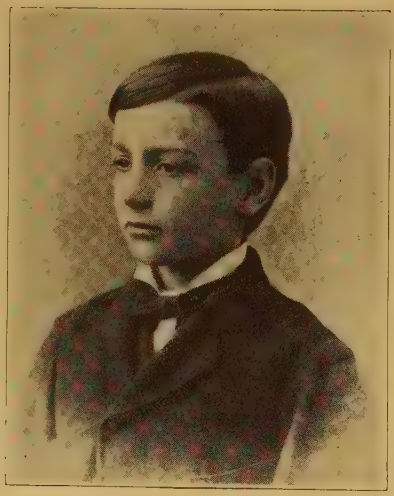
Little Henry's mama is just teaching him about Heaven, as that was the special teaching of last Sabbath. Sunday night and Monday she had the asthma pretty badly. I was down there in the morning and she was breathing pretty hard and fanning herself and he stepped up to her and said "Mama I wish you would die and go to Heaven." There he was putting his teaching into good wishes for her relief from suffering. When he hears her sneeze he will run and shut the door "Now Mama won't sneeze any more".

Marietta, March 5, 1880.

I expected to have all the children up here Wednesday to spend the afternoon as it was little Sister's birthday. Your father was sick in bed all day so of course the children could not come. There was no other way for me to do but to send my nice supper down to them and let them have it at home. I made an elephant for Henry for he insisted that it was his birthday and his party, and we had to indulge him. He is a masterful piece and whoever gets ahead of him will earn the victor's wreath I tell you. They had a very nice time at home and as it was rainy they enjoyed it more than if they had come up here.

Marietta, March 10, 1880.

I have not got done knitting for those children yet. I have knit just as fast as I could click it the whole winter long and they still need more. I went up into the Telephone Office over the Bank this morning and talked with Dode Dale down at the Oil Works below Harmar. He said he should have known my voice but I don't believe it. His voice



Rufus Cutler Dawes

sounded as if he was down in the cellar. I cannot help feeling it is a little uncanny. I like to look at anybody when I talk to them and not talk up a spout.

Marietta, March 18, 1880.

Rufus Cutler is not going to see you now but will wait till you go home after your visit here and then if he thinks he can stand it he will go home with you though I doubt very much if he spends all his vacation there. He is a great home body and a nervous fidgety fellow and very hard to entertain we think. He is just as smart as you will find anywhere either in his studies or witty sayings or as quick to see through anything but it is a hard thing to take care of him, he squirms so that it would make you crazy in an hour to watch him all the time. But there is not a thing that is bad about him nor any of the others either, if anybody could only have patience to stand their ways. Sister tries me the most but she has as many good qualities as anybody I know of. Henry I wish could just be kept in his present spirit and babyhood and I don't wish any such a thing either, for I am just as anxious for him to grow up and be big and good as I am for the others but I mean he is just now having his most beautiful age.

Marietta, June 13, 1880.

We are expecting Uncle Beardsley over here tomorrow to see about making arrangements with your father to supply them with money while they live. Your father has made them a very good offer that I think they will gladly avail themselves of. You know they have no children and Auntie and I are the nearest of kin to them. Your father has

done a good deal of such work as that and I am glad that he is able to help them for they are both of them good Christian people.

Saratoga, New York, June 20, 1880.

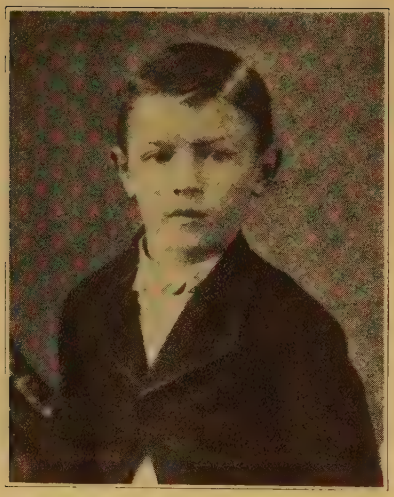
To Mother:

I wish I could tell you what I have seen in the three days we have been here, fairy land is nothing to it. We are at Congress Hall one of the three largest hotels. Our dining room is 320 feet long and is the longest in Saratoga. ***Our first meal was dinner on Friday and in the evening there was a gentleman and his wife and daughter seated at our table who soon began to talk about Cincinnati. After supper your father went to the register and found it was Matthew Addy and family so we introduced ourselves the next morning. We found them pleasant, agreeable people. ***I have found out several things in watching the gay throng as they pass. One is that heels are not so high, and that they are in the right place not in the middle of the foot. The fashionable wear hoops, just like mine that hang up in the dining room chamber closet if you want them—and they go all over town and at all times of day bare-headed with a parasol over them which I think is very nice. ***Did your boys see the electric light in Marietta? There was one on the tip-top of the hotel opposite to us last night and I suppose it was Edison that had charge of it. It streamed out like the bright Aurora Borealis and when it shone on the houses afar off it lighted them up as bright as sunlight. It was wonderful.

Schroon Lake, New York, July 2, 1880.

To Mother:

The more I see of the world and other boys the more my heart turns to our own. They are



BEMAN GATES DAWES

just a splendid lot of fellows and no mistake. I am glad our three boys stand so well in their studies. If God should spare their lives and they should be good Christian men and good scholars and do good in the world I don't think we should be very wicked if we were a little proud, all of us, do you?

Schroon Lake Essex County, New York,
June 26, 1880.

To Little Sister:

I was glad to hear that you had such a good time on Beman's field day. I hope he won't kill himself running and jumping and leaping. He works so hard when he plays he almost makes himself sick. Poor Rufus has made himself lame but I hope he will soon get over it. You all play so hard even to Henry. The dear fellow, does he miss his grandfather and grandmother?

Schroon Lake, New York, July 7, 1880.

To Beman:

About as far from our house where we board as you have to walk to school every day lives a mighty hunter. All the spring time he sets traps for bears "great big black bears" (as my grandfather used to say when he wanted to tell us children scary stories) up on the mountains back of his own house. He has four or five steel traps that are like a big steel rat trap only ever so much larger and he sets them in what he thinks good places but the fartherest one is not more than four miles from his home. He bates them with beef and then fastens them to a log that the bears can drag and then goes off and leaves for several days. Monday he took the gun and his dog and started off to his traps. One of them was missing but the log was dragged

over the bushes making a trail that he could follow and his dog started in ahead of him. He followed almost a half mile when the dog sprung on to the bear and the bear was so mad with pain that he bit him dreadfully and he would not let go of him so the man had to shoot the bear when he thought he might kill his dog, but he never let go of him until he was dead. He had been caught in the trap a good many days before and his leg was all swelled up and dreadfully sore. I don't know how he got the bear home but he did and took him into the barn to skin him. We heard about it and went down but the smell was so bad we could not see it and it made the men dreadful sick to skin it. The man gets from ten to fifteen dollars for the skin and then the bounty is ten dollars so he makes as much money as anybody up here does. I should think he ought to visit his traps oftener. Yesterday was a beautiful day and we got our old man to take five of us over to Root's, as the guide book says "where a most excellent dinner is served of trout game and venison in the season." I suppose if they did not happen to have either of them they would say it was not in season. The ride was a beautiful one through the woods all the time by the side of a little lake or a little stream of water and it was about ten miles off at the head of Schroon river. We got there about 11:30 o'clock and ordered our dinner that was not so dreadful good after all, only we had trout which they all made a great fuss over. They were, all of them, about the size of your finger, heads and tails and all and I ate eight of them and I did not eat much either, the others ate ten apiece. To tell the simple truth I don't think much of trout or trout fishing. I have not seen one larger than your mother's fingers and

when you come to see thirty or forty on a platter together you better believe it looks funny. We sat down on the piazza after dinner, the gentlemen smoking and we were all laughing and having a good time when a gay young man drove up in a buggy with a box in front of him about as large as Sister's little cupboard and we noticed that it had slats across the top of it. He told the hostler to handle it carefully when he threw him the reins. So the hostler lifted it out gently and sat it down and said "pretty well done." We all ran to see what it was and there was a little fawn, brown with white spots and great big eyes and not much taller than Auntie's Jack and not nearly so heavy. So we all gathered round the young man to know how he caught it and what he was going to do with it. He said that he was rowing on the lake near the shore (about twenty miles from where we then were) with a young lady just before night and they heard a splash in the water and they saw this little fawn swimming towards them. It came right to where the young lady was sitting and she lifted it out of the water and kept it on her arms and they rowed back to the boarding house. When they landed she said she would set it down and see if it would follow her and sure enough it did up to the house and she gave it some milk and they fixed this little pen for it and he was taking it out of the wilderness and was going to have it sent to her home. The poor mother had been killed only two days before and the little thing was hungry and he thought the pretty young lady would take care of him.

Schroon Lake, New York,
July 18, 1880.

To Mother:

I sent two pairs of swimming tights for Rufus Cutler and Beman. I fastened on each one of them one of the old bear's toe nails as a kind of curiosity. I told the old hunter what I had written and he gave me these to send to the lads. He has killed six since the first of June or in six weeks, making one a week, and they bring him about twenty-five dollars. He sets his traps again about the middle of September and through October and then waits again till the right time in the spring. He caught three in one day last year. He says he don't know how many he has caught altogether but he has been trapping them these thirty years.

Marietta, July 25, 1880.

Dear Aunt Bettie:

Mama is sick with Dysentery but not very bad and she don't want you to tell Grandmother because it will worry her nearly to death. Mamma will write you in a day or two she says. I have been out to Mr. Fike's rusticating and have had a splendid time. I went fishing, hunting, boat riding, horse riding, black-berrying and swimming. With the letter which I send to you, Grandmother sent Be and I some swimming clothes.

Hurrah for Marietta.

Hurrah for L. L. Peddinghaus.

Hurrah for Arden Archers.

Your affectionate nephew,
R. C. Dawes.

Burlington, Vermont, July, 1880.

Birthday letter to Rufus Cutler:

I feel towards you boys as I do towards my flowers. I watch them and water them every day and I see a little shoot come out on this side or on that (and it sprouts out just because of the care I have given) and I say I must take that off for it is spoiling the shape of my tree. So I try to make it a beautiful shape for it is my tree and I am the one to do it. I feel just so about you boys you are so much mine that I must help form your characters and I love you so much that I am sure I can help. ***I suppose Col. Henry got my letter the other day and went marching about with it in his pocket. Don't you think I hit it right when I called him Col. for he likes to command the best of any little fellow I know of.

Jefferson Hill House,
Jefferson, N. H., Aug., 1880.

What a manly little fellow Henry is. I have been writing letters and postals to Col. Henry May so they can get used to the name for I really think it ought to be and that is a family name and a great deal prettier than the other.

I send you Mary's letter, all but Henry's note, and that does not amount to anything only he wants his grandfather to bring him a pair of big boots that have no holes in and that will come up to his knees. Mary says he looks as Beman says, more like "the son of a king" (with his hair banged) every day, and his great pleasure is in getting letters from his grandmother and answering them.

Marietta, October 11, 1880.

We were met at the depot by Charlie with the news of the arrival of the new grand-daughter Bettie. They all call the new baby pretty and I hope it is but I am afraid the nose is rather large. Mary is getting along nicely and the baby is as good as good can be and the rest of them are well. This morning we went down to see Mary. Her tears come so thick and so fast her heart is so full of love and she is so well pleased with her new baby that she and her father had a melting time of it for his tears come very easy you know. I hope the election will go off tomorrow without troubling my nervous sick folks. Mary is worse off than your father because she is right in the midst of the thickest of it.

Marietta, October 13, 1880.

As the children say "our side beat" and we are hoping yours did too. I objected to the nomination but I am very glad we are not defeated. Mary has borne it all heroically and has not been much disturbed by the tumult. She was a good deal excited with our coming home but is doing nicely now. She has come out *one* ahead.

Marietta, October 17, 1880.

Our baby is a little beauty, I believe I shall have to admit it. Her hair is rather darker than I have been used to seeing on our babies but the eyes are dark too so that they go well together. They are all delighted with her and Henry thinks she belongs to him. By the way that is the longest headed young one I ever saw. He is here until after dinner most every day and I have to give him every

minute of my time as long as he stays. He does not get into mischief ever but he is wanting to do something or he is trying to entertain either his grandfather or me all the time.

Marietta, October 30, 1880.

Our baby is splendid, magnificent, beautiful and good. We are waiting for you to come to decide whether she is to be called Bettie or Bessie. I say Bettie and all the town says so too but the children and maybe Francie say Bessie and I suppose Gracie (Gates) would say Bettina.

Marietta, December 9, 1880.

The boys have got a dog and when it comes up here the cat's back is up and Annie's too and nobody enjoys it but the dog. Beman says he belongs to the older set now, the division comes between him and Sister.

Marietta, December 26, 1880.

Mary had her Christmas tree as usual. I never did see anything like her. She not only had us and all the Daweses and Auntie and family but she had Louise Rosseter and the two little Grosvenor girls and the Beach boys. Beman and Rufus got rubber boots and Charlie a suit of clothes and each of them caps and Henry toys and the baby and Sister got gold pins. And that is not all for it was a big affair. Sleds and dogs and carts and cats and donkeys and pigs and lots of books and candies and oranges and nuts. Mary made the candy boxes with her own hands and put pictures and verses on each one of them.

Marietta, December 30, 1880.

Yesterday the boys came over here with two sleds fastened together with a board and I got on, stretching my feet till they rose as towers in front of me and three of the boys got hold of the rope and Beman got behind me on his knees with his hands on my shoulders to hold me on and I went all the way to Mary's gate and never fell off. There was my weight in my favor. They could not run with me and so tumble me off.

1881

The year of the Wooster Street Slide from Fifth to Front

Auntie Be and Uncle Bosworth went to Cincinnati to live

Marietta, January 9, 1881.

There has been good sleighing and coasting the like of which has never been seen here before hardly. Friday Mary was riding with Laurence on lower Fourth and came to the Putnam street crossing when somebody called to them to stop but stupid Laurence did not heed and she jerked the reins just in time to keep from running over her own son Charlie. Saturday the crowd appeared on Wooster and Fifth streets bright and early with their horns and bells and sleds took possession of the middle of the street. Such a time you never did see. Old men and children, young men and maidens, grandmothers and mothers-in-law, and little children with sleds and without, and dogs and men servants and maid servants, in fact everybody turned out on foot and in sleighs and on crutches to see the sport that ended only with the coming of the Sabbath, the day of rest. They started from Fifth street and went to Front and some of them across that. The most wonderful thing of all is that nobody got hurt. A good many of them were thrown off and broken down but no serious accident occurred. It looked a good deal safer to me than any other hill

where they have been coasting before for it is so wide and perfectly straight. While I was there my boys went down *hollering* to grandmother and both of them "belly-ca-chug." Rufus Cutler said one of the boys on the hill last night rented his sled for a dollar and a half. He said he saw an old gray headed woman pulling her sled up the hill and he knew she was as old as I am. The whole town has gone daft. It is raining and it may all go off now.

Marietta, January 20, 1881.

They had a great time on the ice on the Muskingum yesterday. The whole town must have been there. All the boys and girls in town were there including Lizzie Putnam and Mary Booth. Dr. Hawkes was on the ice and Prof. Biscoe.

Marietta, February 7, 1881.

Charlie wanted to go down to our church in the evening so Rufus Cutler stayed with Grandfather and Charlie and I went down by moonlight. I straightened myself up pretty considerably as Charlie and I sang out of the same book, he tenor and I soprano . He wants his mother and me to play a duet on the piano and he play the flute so as to have the three generations playing together.

Marietta, February 20, 1881.

Charlie is going with his father a week from tomorrow to the Inauguration. He is old enough to enjoy it and it is a nice thing for him to go.

Marietta, April 10, 1881.

I suppose you have seen the notices of the Grand Army meeting in Cincinnati. Rufus took

Rufus Cutler and Beman with him and they had a glorious time of it. They went down Tuesday and the first night they were up till midnight and the second night till three in the morning then they came home on Friday.

Marietta, October 7, 1881.

Yesterday was little Bessie's birthday. I brought her home presents when we came from the East but they were never opened till the night before the birthday. There was your father's seventh mug, his biennial present, counting yours, and Bessie's was the prettiest of the lot. ***The children have had a great time with Jack Bosworth. Auntie went to Cincinnati and forgot him and so they were to express him to her Cincinnati. They caught him two or three different times and got him down to the cars and then he would get away but I suppose they must have got him off finally for I have not seen him for two days. He ought to have been shot and if I could have done it myself I believe I would. I said I would shoot Auntie's part of him if Lucy would take the responsibility of Eph's interest in him not being hit.

Marietta, October 24, 1881.

We just now are exercised over a couple of accidents that happened Friday and Saturday. Beman and Rich Waters went to ride Friday afternoon on two little Indian ponies. Beman's was hired at the livery stable and Rich had his from a little McMasters boy. Somebody was along two months ago with twenty ponies and he sold several of them here and the boys were all crazy to ride them so these boys had permission to hire them for a ride. When

they had ridden long enough Beman got thrown but not hurt and the pony went to Dye's and Beman followed on foot. Rich undertook to turn his pony from Fourth street into Church street and he, the pony, was determined to go home and he finally ran against the corner of the house that stands there and fell down dead with a hole in his skull. How Rich escaped being hurt in the fall I don't know, but he was not hurt a bit. The next morning Perk Bosworth's youngest son hired the pony that Beman had, and he and another fellow went to ride. He was soon run off with and the pony fell on him and broke his leg, the boy's, in front of Prof. Manatt's. Somebody caught the horse or he would have stepped on him. I guess now the boys will be willing to stop. The mothers will be I know. They ride like wild Indians.

Marietta, November 6, 1881.

Henry sticks to his mother like wax, he won't come up here and leave her and he won't let her go anywhere and leave him. The older boys are a great help to their mother and Beman and Sister are a great deal less troublesome than they used to be so that if she is only well it seems as if she might take some comfort in going to Washington.

Marietta, December 4, 1881.

To Beman, in Crawfordsville:

Henry came up here yesterday and will have to stay a good while as there seems little doubt he has whooping cough.

P. S. I got the hookin coff and am going to stay up at the farm six weeks, I want you and Bettie and Uncle Will to write a letter to Henry M. Dawes.

Marietta, December 28, 1881

To Beman in Crawfordsville:

Christmas eve I went down to your mother's as I told you in my letter Sunday and the happiest face I saw the whole evening was your darling mother's. She took me into the bedroom with her and I took the baby to rock her to sleep by the fire and I could see your mother's face in the glass and she did not see me at all. She had the most radiant smile on her face as she took one thing after another out of the drawers and put it in the basket to take into the other room to put on the tree, and she could hardly keep from talking to herself she was so pleased, and I am sure she would have talked to me all the time if it had not been for Bessie going to sleep. Truly your mother's heart is bound up in you children and I am sure you will be good for her sake as well as for your own.

1882

Beman started the year in Crawfordsville

Father, Mother, Sister, Henry and Bessie in Washington

Charlie and Rufus Cutler at the Farm

In April the boys visited Washington

Marietta, January 5, 1882.

New Year's Day the folks all got started on the three o'clock train (to Washington). I put a table in the middle of the room (library) and the boys are to study in there, and they are to sleep in the dining room chamber as usual. I am so glad that Beman is such a good boy and is so happy for I am sure that his mother feels better about him than she would if he was here with me.

Marietta, January 5, 1882.

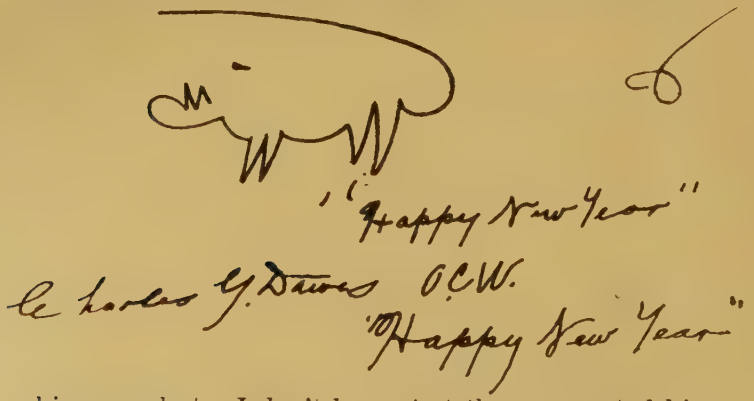
To Mother in Washington:

Yesterday I took Broome over to your house and we fastened everything securely about the house and the wood-house too so you need not worry. The only key that we use is the front door key and Lucy has that and she expects to walk about the house and "compass the walls and count the towers thereof"

every morning, so if anything goes wrong she will soon find it out. She and I are a regular vigilence committee and we shall take good care of things. Thieves may break in and it may be set on fire (I hope it is well insured) but we have done all we can to protect it. ***We sat down to breakfast table at seven this morning and the boys started off to school through the snow in fine spirits.

Marietta, January 8, 1882.

I am having a real nice time with my boys. It is like a breath from the sunny South to have them come in three times a day. They are real nice fellows and do their level best to please us. We try to have them home evenings and sometimes the Blauvelts come here and study with them. Their mates are all of them good boys and I am not going to worry about them. On New Year's Day Charlie called at Mrs. Woodruff's where there was a bevy of pretty young girls and they each of them had a book wherein he was requested to draw a pig with



his eyes shut. I don't know but they requested him to sign his name to the pig and there was where the joke came in. You try it and you will see what fun there is in it.

Marietta, January 8, 1882.

To Mother in Washington:

I guess you will be a genealogist yet. We should, all of *us*, make a pretty good sized volume without going back to our ancestors. ***We have no fault to find with our boys. They are not bickering between themselves. Rufus is just now in a little trouble about his money but I tell him that some of his little bills belong properly to his father. ***We are all pleased with Mary Frances' letters. I think that she and the Chief Justice had quite a nice little time. She will see a great many people that her two grandmothers have been reading about for years and never have seen and we must look through her eyes and pen. She will soon learn to write a good letter. And Henry, what does he do all the time? Has the Government asked him to come and help them in about twenty-five years from now, I have no doubt but that they will need him. And Bessie, I am glad she has turned over a new leaf for I think she has been a long time about it. So Henry wants a kitchen! I don't.

Marietta, January 10, 1882.

To Beman (in Crawfordsville) from Charlie:

Dear Beman, it has been a good while since you went away and I am sorry I did not write you a letter before this one. But you have probably been informed of Marietta doings in spite of my laziness.

I hope you are not getting homesick for it will do you no good. We have no home. The paternal mansion is closed. Perhaps you know that R. C. D. (a friend of mine) and myself are boarding at the house of a gentleman named Gates. This is a good boarding house. The bedding is very good, surely up to the average, and we do not complain of our

food. We have a kind landlady too. I suppose you have heard about the skating rink. I skated for a prize. A good skater never gets a prize. There are always so many local considerations that the skating is lost sight of by an unappreciative audience. This was the case when I skated.

I have a great many public documents to send away now. Father sends me the labels and the addresses and I paste and mail them. The seeds I have not distributed so much. It will give me much pleasure to send to Aunt Bettie a package of beets, or of cabbage, or of saurkraut or any other kind of seeds.

Ruf is expecting to have the mumps. He is not swelled up any as yet but the vinegar hurts and his jaws are sore. W. Addy is down with them. Old Mr. Kingsbury has been quite sick with old age and a cold mixed together. He is about the same now. Prest. Andrews also is quite sick. We have had a small pox scare at Marietta but no cases. It was rumored that three of the minstrels who played here Saturday night and to whose entertainment Ruf and myself unfortunately went were down with the disease at the St. Nicholas Hotel. This proved to be a hoax. However, we have enough of the measles and mumps around to fully occupy us in place of small pox. It seems as if everybody had the mumps. I exposed myself three times in walking down the street and have been exposed three times more at other places, but still I am possessed of a medium sized head. I see by your letter that you are having a good time at Crawfordsville. I had a good time when I was there. Do you play Coffeenuts? Sugar Creek is a good place to fish in the spring but I advise you not to try to wade it with your clothes on as I did. (The clock strikes ten p. m.)

Here is the place for me to give good advice but

as there is a place in the Bible that says "Judge not that ye be not judged" I will refrain. Your affectionate brother, C. G. Dawes.

Marietta, January 13, 1882.

To Henry in Washington:

I have been thinking about it and I don't believe that the Government knows that I have a little grandboy in Washington this winter. Do you remember your little red handkerchief with the boys playing football on it? I pinned that up on the wall so we would all remember Col. Henry May Dawes.

Marietta, January 15, 1882.

Just now the skating rink is the popular amusement. Ministers and deacons and house wives and maidens and children all seem eager for the fray. I think I shall go next Saturday night.

Marietta, January 15, 1882.

To Mother in Washington:

You cannot imagine how much comfort and pleasure we take with our two boys and they are studying nicely. I hope to keep them in good repair but I don't see how on earth anybody keeps six such all patched and darned up. * * * They, both of them, with their grandfather, drink milk three times a day and we use more than a quart of rich cream on the table.

Marietta, January 16, 1882.

Dear Father, I received your last letter of the 14 inst. this afternoon together with the envelopes for seeds. I have put the seeds into them and will send them and the labels and the Ag. Report to Southerton at the same time with this letter. I

MARY FRANCES DAWES
"SISTER"

have 44 Ag. Reports left. When will you send the labels to be pasted on the seed bags. Your affec. son.

C. G. Dawes

Dear Mother, I have got my lesson and have a few minutes to spare to write. I know you are having a good time and I wish I was away from this German (I am studying German to Prof. Manatt) and at Washington. The German is hard and Prof. makes it harder by making us recite wholly in German, he talking to us, we to him (?). It is very disagreeable weather here.

Your affec. son,

C. G. Dawes

Dear Sister:

As this is my first letter to you I must make it very interesting. As you know Maggie Gates won the silver medal. They stamped and vociferated very loud as she skated. She looked rather embarrassed but skated well for all that. Give Prest. Arthur my respects and love. Tell him I will take the Marietta consulship.

Your affec.

C. G. Dawes

Dear Henry:

How do you do. I am very well. I saw Robert Oldham draw a cart. I saw a bird on a tree, also one on the ground. Get me something to play with and a pony on Latin.

Your affec. brother,

C. G. Dawes

Dear Bessie:

You are lucky you cannot read this. How do you like your milk. Rufe likes his, milk is good for calves.

C. G Dawes

Marietta, January 19, 1882.

To Mary Frances in Washington:

Do you teach Henry his letters? I think he will have to learn to read pretty soon or Government will want him and he will not know a single thing and that would be too bad. ***Last night we had a taffy pulling. We just had a few, Devere and Elmer and Allen and Charlie Mills and Willie Shedd, that is all.

Marietta, January 29, 1882.

To Mother:

I don't wonder the young people are all enchanted with the skating rink. It is just like sailing through the air. Among the men the best skaters were Isreal Putnam, Willie Slack and next Charlie and I don't wonder the girls wanted to skate with them all the time. William Hart's little girl came up to Charlie and said are you engaged to skate with any lady. No he said but I would like to skate with you so they went round and round. Big or little they don't any of them hesitate to ask anybody they would like to skate with. Of the young ladies May Thomas got the gold medal but there is no mistake about it Miss Barbour at Prof. Mills was the most graceful skater on the floor, then Eleanor Hawkes and Mrs. Will Sniffen and lots and lots of them.

Marietta, February 1, 1882.

To Mother:

This is Wednesday and the boys have a little play day and I am glad of it for they are driven pretty hard. I have never had to say to either of them get your books and study your lessons, for they expect to do it and in the right time just as much as your father expects to attend to his business in the right time.

Marietta, February 5, 1882.

To Mother:

This morning it is snowing so I could not think of going to meeting. My boys went. They are very good about that. They never think of staying at home but get up and go to Sunday School and then stay to meeting like a couple of deacons. I don't think they have been homesick at all but they talk about you all and anticipate a great deal of pleasure in their visit to you in Washington. I think that Willie Shedd and Charlie Mills mean to go with them and it is a nice crowd of boys that you need not be ashamed of. Charlie went down to play with Mrs. Mills the other evening and I had rather he would go there than anywhere else to play. He plays with the Madame and not the young lady that is there for she does not play well enough to play with him.

Marietta, February 5, 1882.

To Beman in Crawfordsville:

I hope that you are learning to read and are storing your mind with useful knowledge so that when you go to Washington you will be able to comprehend and understand what you hear the M. C.'s talking about. How you boys will enjoy that visit. I will bet that Washington was never visited by a crowd of better boys of that age. Charlie plays on the flute very well. He went over and played with Alice Waters one evening. Here he sometimes plays in their room and sometimes he goes into the kitchen and he puts his music on a chair in front of him and his light on the table and blows away like a house a fire and won't stop to speak to anybody so we might as well keep out of the kitchen unless we want to listen. When the clock says 9:30 then we

shut down on him and he has to go to bed. Sometimes he hates to.

Marietta, February 8, 1882.

It was a bright, pleasant day today and we had a big turkey for dinner. That is it weighed more than 15 pounds. The boys asked Willie Shedd and Hempstead and Evans, a Welchman. They came as soon after twelve as possible and had to be at College at 1:30 o'clock.

Marietta, February 15, 1882.

To Mother:

Charlie began yesterday about his clothes which he has kept very nicely and so has Rufus and they never look the least bit shabby or dirty so you need not feel ashamed of them at the suggestion of clothes in my letter. Charlie was invited to a little party of about thirty over to Mrs. Beach's and that brought up the question if I thought those clothes good enough to go to Washington. Certainly, I said, to wear there, but I had a nice gray coat of his father's upstairs that he might go up and try on. So he wore it down and he, as well as the rest of us, thought it a nice fit only it needed cleaning. I told him I would clean it and if he could be satisfied with it he might get him a vest of the same piece and a grey pair of pants a little heavier and it would make him a nice suit. So this morning I looked, and at Van Meters he can get nice and suitable pants and vest both for $6.50 and this afternoon which is Wednesday, he is going down to see how he likes it. The coat cleaned will look as well as new and that will make him a nice suit for Washington and for all summer too, and cheap at that. Rufus will have to have some new clothes before he goes, and you will have to direct about them for I have nothing

to start with unless it is his coat. His pants are too short and I have lengthened them all I can and they are still short. ***We got some nice valentines from Henry. Rufus and I had gone snacks in sending some to the children before these came. That is, I paid for them and Rufus picked them out and mailed them.

Marietta, February 19, 1882.

Old Man Peterson brought home my clock case yesterday and it is just elegant and Mr. Wittlig will have to come and put it in running order and set it level and then I shall be pleased to hear it tick and strike and think I am a child again and in my grandfather's kitchen popping corn in the warming pan, and the kettle of hominy or hulled corn hanging on the crane that we hook out with the wooden paddle that is always in it to stir it and Grandmother Bartlett sitting in the corner knitting and Grandfather telling about the great black bear that we always liked to hear about, and Auntie and Henrietta leaning on the table playing "three men maurice" by a tallow dip that made the shadows deep enough in the corners of the room to look as if the great black bear was near enough to catch us.

Marietta, February 26, 1882.

Dear Father and Mother:

This letter is addressed to both of you because I wish to combine two letters in one, the first one being the one written to thank you for asking for the Cong. Record and father for sending it and the other being a short account of last week at Marietta. I will read this Cong. Record and see what I can learn in it. Then there is Grandmother Dawes who is very anxious to see it and Grandfather Gates and

taking it altogether we care about as much as any one for it.

Last Tuesday I attended a fancy dress party given by a class in the High School. I had on a "spike tail" that I borrowed from Wylie Oldham. It fitted me exactly. Then I had on the low cut vest that always goes with a spike tail, my new pair of pants, a white neck tie, stand-up collar, new pair of tight shoes and everything but a pair of white kid gloves which were the last straws. I had a very good time. Everywhere I went I could hear half suppressed whispers—"How handsome he is," "How well his pants fit," "I wonder whose coat he has got on," "How big his feet are." However, I did not feel flattered and tried to look as good as I could so as to come near that great monument of perfection in fashion who was arrayed in a pair of tight britches and a spike tail the Friday night before and who, when he blacked his feet with the stove polish, looked down with supreme indifference on the light headed youngsters who tried to divert his thoughts on a Holy morn as these same flatterers tried to divert mine that evening. There were a great many costumes worn at the party. All the girls wore them and a good many boys. Some of the boys were dressed as soldiers and one with knee breeches I did not envy. About 4 had spike tails. They were the best looking in the room (girls excepted).

Our debate in α κ last Saturday was not good. The question was, "Resolved, that the College Reading Room should be changed into a billiard hall." I do not approve of anyone who acts a fool in a literary society and so I did not smile at all at the "amusement" as they called it. We go to society to learn something and not to learn to be fools. There are certain members who cannot speak on debate without talking in a witty (?) way and one gets tired

of it. G. M. Kinkead stopped one of them at it very shortly two weeks ago at the joint session of $\alpha \kappa$ and $\psi \tau$.

Your affec. son,
C. G. Dawes

Marietta, February, 1882.

To Beman in Crawfordsville:

Dear Beman:

As this is only the second letter I have written to you since you have been away it ought to be a longer one, but it is ten o'clock and G-Mother is sleepy and so am I.

I went to a "dress party" the other night. I had on a swallow tail, etc. and I looked as ugly as I was expected to, for you know the uglier a man looks at a dress party the more he is in style.

I am glad G-father has gone to bring you home. I suppose you are to spend a little while at home before you go to Wash. The college boys (a good many of them) are getting bicycles and when you get yours you will find lots of people to run races with.

There are a good many cases of mumps around here but I do not know of any of your especial friends who have them. There are 4 men from '84 down with them and in perhaps two or three days I shall make a fifth.

Your affec. brother,
C. G. Dawes

Marietta, March 5, 1882.

To Beman in Crawfordsville:

Rufus Cutler says when George (Eliot) takes him (Dye's old roan) out of the carriage he has to lean up against the barn to rest or get down on his knees. You know what a fellow Rufus Cutler is to talk and so must make a good deal of allowance for he just talks to hear himself.

Marietta, March 5, 1882.

To Mother:

The boys must wait to buy their hats in Washington for they will want NOBBY ones. I think I never saw better boys in my life. They are expected to be at home at nine o'clock and occasionally a longer indulgence has been granted Charlie. There was one night he was a quarter of an hour late at Mrs. Mills when he went there to play on his flute and grandfather started after him but met him on the fill. I asked your father what he said and he said nothing but that Charlie knew he was going for him. The next morning I told Charlie I did not want him to be hurt but that his Grandfather was very particular and he must try and be up to time. When he went to the two little parties his Grandmother Dawes asked him to stay there all night so he stayed at the parties till the rest of them left. There is nobody that can find a word of fault with my boys. I think there is less fault finding between them and they are more accommodating than brothers are generally.

Marietta, March 27, 1882.

To Mother:

Willie Shedd looks awfully and the boys are all pretty tired with their hard study. I don't think that Rufus Cutler looks well and Charlie looks white but they have had to go to bed before ten o'clock every night almost so that their sleep has been a great thing for them.

Marietta, March 31, 1882.

Our boys got off Tuesday afternoon, seven of them counting Sarah Cutler.

Marietta, April 14, 1882.

What kind of a providence was it that sent poor Rufus Cutler to Washington to break out with the mumps the first thing. The poor fellow cannot have any chance to see anything or enjoy it a bit even if he is not much sick.

Washington, D. C., April 4, 1882.

Dear Grandfather and Grandmother:

I have got the mumps this time sure. I have been kept in the house Sunday and Monday and Tuesday but expect to go out tomorrow. I have been through the Treasury Department, White House, Capitol, Navy Yard, a Monitor, Agricultural Department, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Smithsonian Institute, Observatory and Mount Vernon. The other boys have been through the Corcoran Art Gallery and Ordnance Museum. In the Treasury Department there is a little more than 200 rooms. We went through a great many rooms, the most interesting of which was the room that contained the bonds of National Banks, etc. At first he wouldn't let us in but when he found us *friends* of Gen. Dawes with whom he was very well acquainted he immediately let us in. We saw the bonds of your bank ($150,000) in which was one $50,000 bill. In this cell was $450,000,000. From there we went immediately to the White House (consult guide for a description, its beyond me) and then to the Capitol. The next day we went to the Navy Yard. The best thing we saw was a Monitor. We went entirely through this but anybody that don't know about that don't know about the History of this country. This one had been in nearly all the last naval fights of the war and carried great dents in her turret of *steel* 11 inches thick. Her works were ten feet under

water. On the same day we went through the Bureau of Engraving and Printing which I don't understand very well. They engrave and print bank notes (value $9.00) and that's all except that they count them and send them away. The Smithsonian Institute contains so many things that I can't begin to tell what I saw there. I am going through it again.

On Saturday we all (that is the Humphreys, one other girl, and all our family and the boys, 22) got on the little boat W. W. Corcoran and went to Mt. Vernon. The first thing of interest that we saw was the old Oak Tree under which Washington used to rest. Then a tree W—himself planted and the Toomb of Washington, his old toomb, the old Ice House, the lawn and its beautiful view up and down the Potomac River. In the house we saw the room W. died in, the room Mrs. W died in and all the other rooms. The house from the outside seems very small but it has three stories and how many rooms I don't know but ever so many. Then the Old Brick Barn and Conservatory, etc. We took our dinner and were back at 3½ o'clock. The next day I got sick and have been in the house ever since. I have improved my opportunities and have read everything I could get my hands on. I have had a pretty good time while I was sick. Be has got him a splendid little bicycle and he rides round almost everywhere. He is very much obliged for that $2.00 but he had to put every cent to his bicycle and still owes a little to papa. He was very lucky in getting so good a one. Tomorrow we are going to Arlington.

In haste

Your loving g. s.

R. C. D.

Marietta, April 16, 1882.

Little Sister spent the afternoon here yesterday and we had a delightful time talking and walking about. She seemed so quiet and gentle so unlike her old self that I am afraid it won't last. Rufus Cutler came home Friday noon and Charlie came Saturday morning so you see they came in installments. Beman came Sunday morning with Allen Beach, Charlie Mills and Devere Blauvelt and Mary and the three younger children and Mary Theis Tuesday and the rest the last of the week.

Marietta, May 11, 1882.

Beman came with a request today that I most readily agreed to. He is going to take part in Mrs. Prof. Mills temperance theatre and he wanted an old fashioned coat and knee breeches. So I am going to turn tailor.

Marietta, May 20, 1882.

Beman is going to send you his picture with a continental suit on that I made for him. I went down to see the performance. Beman went through his part of the performance as if he had been brought up on the stage. Today they are to have a matinee and the proceeds are to give the mites a supper. As they danced about over the stage they seemed to be mostly legs. They sung very well and Charlie played the flute and somebody the violin and Mrs. Manatt the melodeon, and they made good music.

Marietta, June 15, 1882.

I suppose you will hear of Rufus Sen's nomination before you get this letter. I think they are all very much pleased with it even to the baby. They

are all born politicians. Charlie attended the Convention so as to report to his father. Mary seems to feel like everybody else would that she can not bear to have him defeated now that he has gone into it.

Marietta, June 23, 1882.

Tonight there is a little parlor concert at Mrs. Manatt's. She has had a class of children teaching them to sing and they are going to have a gay little time tonight showing off. They are to be accompanied by Alice Waters on the piano and Charlie Dawes on the flute and a young Coe on the violin. Little Sister sings "I am a merry mountain Boy" and of course with two children on the program I am going.

Mrs. Manatt requests the
pleasure of your presence at a
PARLOR MUSICALE,
On Friday Eve June 23rd, '82,
at 7 o'clock.

PROGRAM.

PART FIRST.

1 "The Workers"
Chorus of Children.

2 "The Flower Girl,"
Florence Dale.

3 Song,
Mrs. Manatt.

4 Fairy Song,
Maggie Gates.

5 Waltzes,
Miss Alice Waters, Mr. Dawes

6 "The Mountain Boy,"
May Dawes.

7 "The Blue Alsatian Mountains,"
Miss Mary VanMetre.

8 "Don't you see me Coming,"
Master Robert Oldham.

PART SECOND.

1 "The May Queen."
Catherine Dale.

2 "Beautiful Bird Sing on,"
Miss Carrie Eells.

3 "The Blue Bird,"
Winnie Manatt.

4 Instrumental Trio,
Miss Waters, Messrs. Dawes and Coe.

5 "Bonnie Scotland,"
Louise Rossiter and Chorus.

6 "Johnny Schmoker."

Marietta, July 4, 1882.

Charlie started a week ago for Ashland in a skiff with two of the Means boys and Theron Hawkes. They spent the Sabbath in Pomeroy and then took a steamer and towed their skiff. It rained so they could not sit in their skiff all day without being well drenched. They are going into a cave that is supposed to be connected with Mammoth Cave. There are five or six of them in all.

Marietta, July 16, 1882.

Charlie got home from his trip to the cave in Kentucky and the camping out. The skiff ride down the Ohio did not amount to much as they soon got tired of it and quit. The rain and hard work was a little too much for their ideas of pleasure. However they had a delightful time.

Marietta, July 19, 1882.

Willie Shedd is going home to Persia the first of August. Mrs. Dawes and Lucy will be lonely enough without him. It will be a good thing for him though. I have been thinking of going up to the Sanitarium with Mary and Rufus Cutler and little Sister to spend a week but Rufus Cutler says he would rather wait until Willie is gone.

Marietta, July 30, 1882.

This is Rufus Cutler's birthday. He began several days ago to suggest to me that he wanted a loaf of fig cake and my usual dollar and that as he needs a considerable money just now more would not come amiss. So Annie made him a nice cake and marked it July 30—1867-1882—which was all very nice for her to do and Grandfather added a dollar to mine. His mother gave him a silver watch that made his black eyes snap and his father added

two dollars and Uncle Eph sent him a book and Aunt Francie a knife so the day has been well celebrated. I expected to have them all up here to tea this evening with Willie Shedd who has been expecting to start for Persia tomorrow but there is a delay for five days so I am to have them Tuesday evening.

Marietta, October 29, 1882.

Charlie Dawes had his class party that night and you would have thought that not a soul could come it stormed so hard but they were all there every last one of the three dozen. After they had come the children took round little waiters with bon-bons on them. These they took by cords in each end and snapped them and out came a cap which every fellow put on his head and wore all the evening. I don't think there were any two alike in shape or color and some of the pretty girls looked very pretty in them. Then about ten they had oysters and coffee and ham sandwiches and biscuit and cake and ice cream and lemon ice. Then after supper they had music and that other thing that they talk about (dancing?), then they had singing and at about midnight the storm abated and they went home, all of them well pleased from the least to the greatest. Mary took her bed out of the back parlor throwing the rooms together and she took her bureau and washstand into the little reception room and made that a dressing room for the girls and the boys went into Charlie's room upstairs. I never saw such pluck as Mary has got and she enjoyed the whole affair as much as any of the children. I should have gone raving crazy and have sent word by dark for them not to come. Her supper was first class and the cake was charming.

Marietta, November 5, 1882.

Your father and I walked down to church this morning and I went a little ahead to take some persimmons to the baby. When I got there Mary saluted me with "Well sure enough your prediction has come to pass, last night we had burglars." Mary says when the girls got up this morning they found the kitchen door unlocked but shut and the dining room window open. They called Mary and said that Gen. Dawes' clothes were out on the back pavement and sure enough Rufe's pants that he hung on the bed-post at his head were gone and so were his coat and vest that were at his feet. They got up in short order with a little more than ordinary haste and found his watch had been taken from the mantel and his cuffs with cuff buttons. As soon as they could they went out to the wash house and there found all his papers taken from his purse in a pile by themselves and his bunch of keys on them to keep them from blowing away. He says there was between nine and ten dollars in the purse that they appropriated. The cord to his watch was left but they took the watch and they left the cuffs but took the buttons. The window curtains on the porch were up a little ways and they must have looked in through the turned shutters for there was a lamp in the hall and the door into it being open they could see all they wanted to in the room beforehand. They took a washstand that stood on the back porch and carried it round to the dining room window where they got in. Mary says that she cannot be too thankful that they did not wake her up and scare her to death. Did you ever feel anything that came so near home and there they lay and slept through it all.

Marietta, November 12, 1882.

Mary is expecting Auntie and Uncle Bosworth here to take her house and to take care of Charlie and Rufus Cutler and little Sister while the rest of them go to Washington. They all seem well pleased with the prospect and they will be here for Thanksgiving. Mary expects now to start on the three o'clock train right after Thanksgiving dinner at our house.

Marietta, Dec. 3, 1882.

From C. G. D.

Dear Father (in Washington)

I arrived home last night about twelve o'clock feeling rather relieved, for the weather and the work and your boats combined had worried me considerably during the past week. Every morning, rain snow or shine, we had to get up at five o'clock and go to work and hard work at that. However as my employer is satisfied and I have some money, I am glad I went.

Seventeen years old.

The levels that we run, I think, are not the best that could be run by half. If our instructions had been to run as near to the side hills as possible, so as not to cut the flat fields of the farmers in two, and to run as much as possible over land which is not so readily available to him as some that we did go over, instead of being to keep just above the high water mark if practicable, a great deal of money for right of way could have been left out of account in such an estimate which will have to be considered in the one you will probably make from our profile, for the farmers will give their side hills but not their bottoms.

The country Up Salt Creek is pretty rough and it took us a day to go up that valley, but the most

of the land along the Muskingum is very smooth.

Surveying in summer would be lots of fun but standing round in snow with a hard wind against you, and then running through briar patches higher than your head with a pair of boots that hurt your feet all on Thanksgiving day is not so enjoyable as you might suppose. We had the worst 8 days of the year to work in.

Rufe tells me that you are thinking of relenting in the college society business, I sincerely hope you are. You have reached a point most emphatically where "forbearance ceases to be a virtue." One should never try to accomplish what is impossible. These words of advice and wisdom from your learned son I have no doubt will exert a great influence over your future actions in regard to this matter. I have earned enough money to pay my initiation fee and I would rather put it there than anywhere else. In your next letter please give me permission.

I hope you are all well. I got Mother's letter at Gaysport all right. Mr. Warner will make out his report today and you will receive it soon. The distance I believe is between 19 and 20 miles. Please answer my humble request through Mother or as you please, Your affectionate son C. G. Dawes.

Dear Mother, I was sorry to miss a Thanksgiving dinner. I wish that instead of crying you would have sent something decent to eat up there. Pork is good once or twice but in 8 days gets worn out, likewise chicken. I wish you would write soon.

C. G. D.

Marietta, Dec. 15, 1882.

To Mother:

Rufus Cutler has been a perfect model as far as I can see and he will stand up for Charlie right

manfully if I find fault with him and they don't either of them think it is "none of my business." Sister has been up here with me from Tuesday of last week until Thursday. She has been companionable and just as good as she could be. She obeys to the letter all of your injunctions and mine too. She neither scowls nor speaks cross and she is not rude and rough but very ladylike. She is a number one girl.

1883

Father and Mother, Beman, Henry and Bessie in Washington

Charlie, Rufus Cutler and Sister at home where Auntie Be and Uncle Bosworth kept house with Annie in the kitchen

Grandfather and Grandmother visited Washington

Washington, Jan. 5, 1883.

To Beman Gates:

Here I am at 17 Grant Place and my rooms are across the street. ***We were expecting to call on the Cabinet Madams to day but this big storm is our apology and now we shall see them next week.

Washington, Jan. 12, 1883.

In the evening we went to hear Lotta Crabtree. Did you ever hear such a name? I thought I was to hear some Italian "Lotti." I was entertained and laughed myself almost sick. Our seats were where we could see Gen. Sherman. I have not seen him for 47 years and I think he looks as he did when he was a gangling boy.

Washington, Jan. 1883.

Your father came Saturday morning. He seems well and perfectly contented and ready to go sight seeing any time. I don't know that I told you about the carnival. It was a regular Calithum-

pian performance, on sleds and in sleighs and in rocking chairs drawn by old horses and handsome sleighs with masked men and every kind of grotesque figure. The side walk for two miles was just a sea of heads and they stood in the snow and cold for more than an hour to see the performance. *** Monday is reception day for the Congressmen's wives. On this little street called in former times Grant Alley but now by way of improvement Grant Place there are a good many Rep. families and they all received at their own houses. I cannot begin to tell you what a merry time we had of it. I enjoyed it very much contrary to my expectations. I never saw entire strangers thrown together with only the introduction of a card that were so social. There was only one dumby amongst them. Now I am going to tell you who were here, Mrs. Gen. Mahone (Confederate) Va., Mrs. Irish (Bureau Printing and Engraving) Mrs. Senator Morrell (Ver.) Mrs. Sen. Frye (Maine), Mrs. Sen. Platt (Conn.) Annie Rice's friend. Mrs. Sen. Benj. Harrison sent cards by her sister Mrs. Lord and Miss Harrison (Ind.), Mrs. Sen. Sherman, Mrs. Baker (niece) and Lizzie Putnam, Mrs. Rice (Mass.) sister of Mrs. Hoar and the friend of Annie Dawes, Mrs. Tweedale (I don't know) and Mrs. Upton. Mrs. Dr. Rice and mother (Ohio) Mrs. Gen. Dudley and Miss Wakefield (Ind.) Mrs. Henry Neale, Miss Neale Peebles and Miss Coles from Portsmouth Ohio. Miss Taylor from Garfield's district was as bright as a button but not so very pretty. Mrs. Gov. Dingley (Maine) Mrs. Norton Woodruff's sister. Mrs. Bowman (Mass.) our old neighbor Tenny's niece, Mrs. Dwight and Misses Dwight (New York) who own 40,000 acres of wheat in Dakota which Mary says is uncut and I guess it never will be if it has not been before this. Mrs.

Cassidy (Nevada), Mrs. Reed (Maine) Mrs. John G. Carlisle (Ky.) Mrs. Gen Bragg and daughter (Wis) Mrs. Deering (Iowa) Mrs. Willis (Ky) Mrs. Oates (Ala) Mrs. Spooner, Miss Vernor, Mrs. Page (California) Mrs. Hazelton (Wis) and she was the prettiest woman we saw all the afternoon long. Did you ever see such a jolly time as we had of it? There was no entertainment though I believe the Cabinet members have punch and ice cream and all things good.

Washington Jan. 22, 1883.

Rufus Sen. took us all down to the White House. I saw the beautiful portraits of Martha Washington and Mrs. Hayes that were painted by Andrews an old Marietta student from Zanesville. The rooms were all of them very elegant***we saw the silver ship that was at the Centennial and was bought by our Government for a center piece for the table at the great receptions and dinners. I could not help congratulating myself that I was a citizen of this great Republic and had my share in the whole thing government buildings and all and even the poor President is only the servant of the dear people. From there we went over to the Corcoran Gallery. I have always had an admiration for statuary and naked figures and there we had them in all postures. Then the paintings, there was such a host of them that I had not time to look carefully at all of them only at those that particularly attracted me. Two of them were in the Rocky Mountains and you would never tire looking at them, the longer you looked the more you would see. Then there was a picture of Charlotte Corday. I never saw anything equal to it. In the first place the figure was inside prison bars with her fingers clasped

round the bars great heavy four sided bars that showed the shape through the fingers that held them. One hand which she had put between her head and the bars which she was leaning against was pressed almost out of shape with her weight. Then her poor sorrowful face and her sad eyes that followed you so appealingly. You could not get away from her. It was fascination. The only other face that seemed to make any impression on me was a portrait of John Randolph. It was an evil face it seemed to me and one that I felt almost afraid of and I was glad when I got away where he could not see me. I had to keep looking round all the time to see if he was still looking at me and when I found he was all the time it made me nervous.

Marietta, Feb. 3, 1883.

We always went first to the House to the Members' Gallery and sat there and looked and listened till we were fairly faint watching the moving figures below us. It looked more like a disorderly school than anything else with scraps of paper all scattered over the floor. The Speaker's gavel made very little impression on them till he jumped up an said "We will have order" then they quieted down a little. I heard Speaker Keifer and Blackburn of Ky., and Butterworth of Ohio and Calkins of Ind and Sunset Cox of New York (used to live in Zanesville) Craps of Mass, DeMotte of Ind, Dingley of Maine and Hiscock of New York and Kasson of Iowa and Reed of Maine and Page of Cal. and Robeson of N. J. (and he looks more like the pictures of John Bull than ever) and Tucker of V. and Senators Hoar and Dawes of Mass, and Morrill of Ver. and Benjamin Harrison our next president. When we got tired of the House we went over to see

the Senators who look more like men that had dignity and respected themselves. I choose to be a senator when I go. The president of the senate is big fat David Davis and he is not such an unwieldy person as he is represented by any means. They did not run about all the time as they did in the House. The discussions were almost always the tariff or bonded whiskey or something that they liked to quarrel about and a dozen or so speak at once. In the senate we heard an eulogy on poor Ben Hill by the senator from Georgia. He made him out a very good man as well as a great man and I presume he was. We went calling one afternoon at Mrs. Logan's ***and then we went to the Frelinghuysens (I spelled that the hardest way I could and I hope it is right) ***From there we went to John Sherman's and when he shook hands with me he held on to my hand and squeezed it and we both told stories and laughed about old times and had a merry time. ***Your father says I have got my senators and representatives pretty well mixed up. I cannot help it, I am not in Politics. From the Shermans we went to Vinnie Ream Hoxie's and saw her bust and the busts of lots of her graven images. She sat there with a hat on because she thought she looked pretty in it. She was very gracious and pleasant but she is not always so they say. There were several life size figures in her parlors and lots of heads and naked water nymphs and naked busts but I have become so accustomed to see the human bust that I have no feeling at all about one that cannot pull her shawl around her.

Marietta, Feb. 11, 1883.

I suppose you may have heard through the papers of our great flood but our town has been

Betsey Gates Dawes

cut off from the outside world since Wednesday morning. We have had no mail and no papers and whether the whole country is inundated or only the Ohio valley is more than we know. Last Tuesday night it rained hard all night and Wednesday morning everybody on the Point begun to move and by night the water was over the street. Of course the Bank went into *Liquidation* and their valuables were taken to the Subtreasury up at the Court House. So they were well taken care of there. It was impossible to hire help except at the whiskey saloons where they got their pay and whiskey besides. Yesterday the water fell so that they could walk down Front street to the Bank. In the middle of the afternoon it began to snow so that we had an inch or two of it and then it turned to rain and it has kept hard at it ever since now almost 24 hours. Your father went down street about nine o'clock and about noon he telephoned to George to come down. He said the water was not rising yet but that it would soon be for some boat said it was rising at Wheeling when it left.

Marietta, March 5, 1883.

Mary is expecting Rufus Sen. back tomorrow. They have had a pretty wild time of it in Congress this last week and they have hardly allowed themselves time to sleep for fear some trick would be played and one party or the other would be outwitted. I don't think much of such statesmanship.

Marietta, March 21, 1883.

Bessie is just as pretty as she can be and a great talker and she thinks she reads which is very funny. ***How they grow those children. You will be amazed when you see them. Charlie is as tall

as his grandfather and Rufus Cutler is as tall or taller than his father and Beman is a little fellow yet but very much changed for the better and Sister is getting quite pretty and Henry right fat.

Marietta, March 29, 1883.

It is vacation and of course the children are all free. I don't know what the older boys reports are but Sister stands perfect in one study and her average is 98, pretty well done for her. Beman's highest is 80 and lowest 70 and that is better than I expected. Charlie is appointed one of the prize essayists. Beman is going to spend his vacation here working with George and grandfather is going to pay him.

Marietta, June 9, 1883.

Bessie has just lost two finger nails and Henry one. Sister has been having a large boil on her cheek. Charlie has returned strong and fat and black. He likes engineering very much. Rufus Cutler is quite sweet on the girls since his party and Beman has taken to riding on our old horse.

Marietta, July 2, 1883.

Bessie is as smart as a cricket and pretty wilful. Mary Frances is still going on with her French and she is hemming sheets and pillow cases and she is really quite industrious.

Marietta, June 17, 1883.

I can't tell you anything about the field day at the Campus but in the bicycle race Charlie got the three dollar prize. Your father took the carriage and Mary and the two younger children and went down and watched the games for a time. ***I wish

you could see Bessie. She is just as pretty as a picture and as smart as they are made and just running over with love for everybody.

Marietta, June 21, 1883.

Monday Mary sent up word quite early to see if I could go out to Annie Lehnhardts to which I consented so we gathered all we could find of eatables in both houses and sallied forth. We took our good old horsie (as Bessie says) in the old carriage, with Bessie and Sister and I in the back seat, and Beman and Henry and their mother on the front one, and the basket of eatables under the seat. It was one of the hottest days of the summer but there was quite a little breeze so we did not suffer. We went over the hill by Mr. Cole's and we all enjoyed it but the horse, and he looked hot enough but did not otherwise express himself. It was about 10½ when we got there and the log house was as cool and comfortable as could be. Pretty soon it began to cloud up and though that made it cooler I was filled with forebodings. After we had our dinner about 2½ we started for home over the plank road though we had to go down a tremendous hill before we came to the planks and then we did not find the planks at all but only mud holes and the clouds were threatening all the time so that when we came to Pinchtown on the river it looked like the New Jerusalem to us. Still it did not rain but the clouds were very black and it thundered so we thought we would try to get home and we could stop in some house if we were obliged to. With our hearts in our mouths and our whip in our hands we made Billy step it lively. We drove down third street and into Mary's alley and up to her gate just in time to see your father enter the alley on Wooster

street. We got home all right with Billy in a foam and all of us glad of the shelter.

Marietta, June 26, 1883.

Charlie has just come in to say that he got the second prize 10 dollars for an essay. Nickerson was first and he second and Brown third. Foolish old grandmother to care but I do like to have my boys beat. Charlie has been laid up with boils on his face so that he has not been out at all. And Rufus Cutler has been shut up with them too but not quite so bad but on his face. They run and jump and wrestle out in the hot sun all the time it is no wonder they have boils with the blood heated up so.

Marietta, July 16, 1883.

Our two boys Charlie and Rufus Cutler have gone out surveying the old Marietta road with Mr. Cutler and Allen Beach is with them. Whether it is work or frolic remains to be seen some time hence.

Rose Hill Sanitarium, West Virginia.
August 7, 1883.

We are at Dr. Harte's springs up above Newport. ***Mary has had a bad attack of asthma. We expect to go home Friday to go to the show and see *Jumbo*. Mary and Beman and little Sister and Henry are here with us, and your father has Rufus Cutler to help George make hay this week, and Charlie is out surveying, and Mary Theis devotes her time to Miss Bessie and I presume the whole neighborhood joins in that labor of love. ***I have just received your letter from St. Paul. You must have made a spectacle of yourself in Chicago. I

suppose everybody thought you had taken more than was good for you. It is getting to be such a common thing for women to get drunk that I suppose everybody that saw you felt great pity for your husband and that is all they thought about it.

Beverly Mass Sept. 3, 1883.

To Mother:

I hope that Charlie won't be away from his school very long and that he will succeed in his great undertaking, for a lad like him it is a very great undertaking and if he succeeds it will be a great feather for him.

Marietta, November 9, 1883.

I don't suppose that you remember that this is your mother's birthday! The first thing this morning when we got out to breakfast, I found quite a large box at my plate and I began to inquire where it came from and just then there was a noise in the china closet and the door opened and here were Sister and Henry. They had come up to bring the box from their mother and to eat breakfast with us. The box contained three kitchen aprons. Mary had made them. About nine o'clock George went down for Mary. When school was out here came Beman and Henry and after dinner they went off, and here came Rufus Cutler and Bessie. Then Rufus Sen. and then Auntie, then in the evening came Charlie and Sister to stay all night. Just think of it I am sixty seven years old today. Isn't that awful but I am not so old but what I am willing to hold on a good while longer.

Marietta, November 25, 1883.

For my hungry boys for Thanksgiving I am going to have oysters and a turkey and two ducks

and all kinds of vegetables and mince and squash pie and Indian pudding and plum pudding and coffee. Henry says make lemon jelly. Rufus Cutler says such high toned dinners always have almonds, pecans, English walnuts and raisins. Beman and Henry both want me to have a pig like the one their mother remembers.

1884

The year of the Great Flood

Charlie graduated but Aunt Bettie was in Marietta so there are no letters reporting it

Cleveland elected

Marietta, January 17, 1884.

I suppose you want to know how Charlie got along with his maiden speech Tuesday night at the contest. Very well indeed. It was all very creditable to him but he did not get either of the prizes. Mary said she was very well satisfied with him. His was the first speech and Lloyd's was the second. She said when Lloyd was through it was no use to listen any longer for the first prize for Lloyd could not be beat by anybody.

Marietta, January 20, 1884.

It has been snowing again***there is prospect of more snow***Wooster street has been given up most of this week to the high carnival of bob-sleds and runners of all descriptions. Rufus Cutler came up here as usual Saturday night to spend the night and he said that Charlie's set had a leap year party last night and went up to the Devol's and that Katie Elston invited Charlie. I did not hear who they all were only there were four couples in a great big sleigh and May Woodruff and Ellen Nye were of the

company. They went in the same sleigh that a party (including your father and me) went up to Beverly in forty years ago this winter.

Marietta, January 24, 1884.

More snow—I ought not to say a miserable day with everything that heart could wish and a man and a maid to do my bidding but I cannot help wondering if it will ever stop snowing. It has been snowing now almost every day for three weeks. Sometimes it has been very cold and then warm and pleasant. The snow settles a little by thawing between storms, so that the snow does not pile up any higher than it did the first great storm that we had, but in cleaning the roads round the house George has piled up the blocks of snow like blocks of granite and they don't look any more likely to vanish away. If it all should go off with a rain it doesn't seem as if we could escape a disastrous flood. They have hired a man to come and raise the safe down at the Bank so as to be ready for the high water when it comes. Our children are just delighted whenever it snows as are all the young people in town while the old people are all croaking and shaking their heads thinking of what may result from it.

Marietta, January 17, 1884.

Eph came Friday night. This is his first look at old Manasseh Cutler's papers that he was so long getting hold of and finally had to pay $250.00 for. He says he would have paid more than as much again rather than have lost them. I guess they are a rich treat and some of them will never get beyond the hearth stone of the present generation. Grandmother Dawes don't like the notion of the old clergyman going to horse races and dances and balls and drink-

ing wine at dinners and she don't want our boys ever to know it so she will guard them pretty closely as long as she lives. ***This is not beautiful snow. The blocks of snow around our house are piled up half as high as your head and I don't think that even the summer sun can melt it.

Marietta, February 4, 1884.

The windows of Heaven are opened and the rains are pouring down upon us and the mighty deeps are broken up and the waters are almost up to the tops of the bridges on Front street. Your father and George have gone down to spend the day at work at the Bank. They have got their safe in the vault raised about 30 inches so that it is higher than the flood of 1832 and they think there is no danger of its coming into that. They expect to take their valuables up to the Treasurer's safe and then close their vault door and putty it up hoping to keep the water out. Your father has just come up from the Bank and says that the water will be as high as it was last year without fail maybe higher.

Marietta, February 11, 1884.

You cannot imagine and I cannot describe and no man can paint so that you can form a correct idea of the awful destruction of this wide-spread calamity. I will give you a faint idea of the trouble at the Bank first though they have not lost a dollar only the loss of time and the repapering and cleaning up generally. The water was nine feet or more higher than it was last year, and it was about three feet on the floor of the Bank then. Your father went over the lowlands in a skiff on Wednesday morning and they all began carrying things upstairs, carpets, desks, books, chairs, papers and

money and they took off their time locks and puttied up their vault doors and then felt very comfortable. Dale was quite confident that the vault would be as dry as a chip and added he would agree to drink all the water that got into it. They had a guard of two men upstairs night and day and they felt all right. It came up four inches an hour which is very fast till they had to get out of their second story and move things into the third story except what things they could get on tables and shelves. Fortunately the water only just got into the second floor so that the valuables of the Bank stood their ground without going into the third story. The water quit rising at two o'clock in the morning (Saturday) and now at noon Monday it has fallen not more than six feet so that they cannot clean out before evening or tonight sometime. ***It was in the chambers of Helen's (McLeod) house so that they moved up to Mary's. ***Prof. Biscoe's barn upset and the boat house is turned over but tied with a string to some trees. ***The free bridge to Harmar is gone and not content to go alone it hit against the railroad bridge and took the most of that with it. It seemed to have some feeling for the distress it might occasion so it lodged on the Bailey farm in Warren. The Lowell bridge started on a trip but they caught it up in the Dyar neighborhood, and barns, houses and all such things seemed possessed with the spirit of emigration. Both the bridges on Front street are turned about in some way but can be put to rights. Mr. Wittlig's shop floated over onto the open air depot of the M. & C. Mrs. Quigly's millinery shop floated off and Mass Bakery busted up, George says. ***We went up to the office of the Chair Factory. John is equal to the occasion your father says and he has acted like

a hero. He had his engine tallowed and his goods and machinery carried aloft and made a cable boom for his boards and lest that might give way he made a second and a third so as to be secure. But mercy, mercy though they won't lose anything only time and labor yet their whole grounds are a mass of big boards and little boards and thick boards and thin boards and beams and splinters and the roof of one of the dry houses came off, though they have it all there how can they ever get it all straightened out. There cannot be a dividend there for one year I am afraid. ***The poor are in the school houses and churches on the hill and well fed by our own people. Cows will have to be shut up for there is not a fence left that was under water.

Marietta, February 14, 1884.

Tuesday we rode down to Uncle Barty's home which was a picture of desolation. The paper has all come off the walls and the yard was filled with out houses and litter and dead chickens and on the trees as far up as the water came hung papers and strings and old rags. ***The Episcopal Church was caught by the water. They lost their prayer books and will now have to make their own prayers for a while. Pom Wells lions at his door floated off into the yard, the hollow iron things. Maria Woodbridge rode up here last night with Mrs. Slack. Maria told of some man coming to her side door and tying a privy to the knocker. She said with every motion of the water it would knock and she could not stand that so she asked him to tie it to her woodhouse which he reluctantly did and pretty soon she saw them all bobbing up and down and starting off. She said Supreme Judge Follett's privy lodged in a tree at her side window and tarried awhile and then

started on a visit to John Follett of Cincinnati she supposed.

Marietta, February 16, 1884.

You would be astonished to see how fast the mud dries up. It is quite comfortable getting about town. Just about every other house has a pump in at the cellar window pumping the water out, and then it wants the second pumping in two or three days. The little out buildings that I have mentioned before are still to be seen in the most unwished for places but the most sociable gathering of them is in Miller's garden on the corner of Scammel and Second street where there are nine. ***There is really no suffering from cold and hunger and the people were all comfortably provided for in the several school houses and churches and in the Court House and many of them are better fed than they generally are at home, but how they are ever going to find their houses or know when they do find them is more than I can tell. The fences generally are gone and the barns and woodhouses and summer kitchens and small dwellings are moved off their foundations if they ever had any, and tipped up on their sides or a half dozen of them jammed in together some at one angle and some another and none of them right until it looks as if the only way to get them out of the muddle was to burn them up. I don't know how many houses are on the wing but they have appointed R. K. Shaw to go round and see so we shall have a correct statement. I hope the poor people will be provided with homes again. Philadelphia sent $500 and Baltimore $300. This was sent to Harmar and the money raised here for our own poor is considerable. I presume we have seen higher water than will ever be seen by any eyes

that looked on this, but just think of the dread that hangs over the dwellers in the lowlands whenever the rains fall on the snows on the mountains in the winter. ***Our city sent Rufus Senior and Harmar sent Moore to Washington on Ohio valley flood appropriations. ***Before Frances heard from us she heard the newsboy crying under her window "Great calamity at Marietta".

Marietta, February 19, 1884.

You remember General Hauling, his wife and his six little pickaninnies? They were under water and they have moved up into Sue Morris' house. They had not a stitch of clothing or bedding only what they had on their backs.

Marietta, February 23, 1884.

I wish you could see them trying to move the little homes back onto their foundations. The rollers and the houses are daubed with mud from one end to the other. They cannot be made to look decent. You say you are glad to know from my letters that it is not so bad as you had imagined. I am sure I don't know how it could have been worse unless we had all been dead corpses. We have had but one whole day of sunshine, and a part of the day yesterday, since the groundhog had the sunshine on the 2nd (this is the 23rd and of course the mud is still pretty deep and people at work feel discouraged and the houses don't dry much and the buildings break to pieces as they turn them up. The Relief Committee still feed 1,500 here and at Newport besides Harmar is not counted in and they are feeding 900 over there. There are two or three boats that run up and down past here (it is so the whole length of the river) with a white flag flying

with Relief printed in large letters on it, and it needs only to be signalled to afford relief to every farm house in the county that suffered by the waters.

Marietta, February 26, 1884.

Our hearts have been full of the distress and misery of the poor people around us. When I think of Mary it is always in the words of Christ to another Mary "She hath done what she could".

Marietta, March 2, 1884.

Tomorrow is little Sister's birthday and I am going to have them all up here for supper and let Sister invite her three particular friends Louise Rosseter and the two younger Grosvenor girls.

Marietta, March 17, 1884.

You ask if puttying up the door of the vault at the Bank kept the water out. It was just as full as it would hold in spite of it. But there was nothing left in it to spoil. Marietta is an awful looking place. We have not had twenty four hours of sunshine yet.

Marietta, May 18, 1884.

Charlie takes the fourth in a class of fifteen. We are very glad that he got it for the feeling we have had was that the time he has been out engineering would tell against him for the president was opposed to his going. But when you know that he has clothed himself by his earnings you will think with us that he has done pretty well. Nickerson the first honor man was just as old as Charlie is now when he entered College four years ago. Lloyd is twenty-eight and has the second honor.

Allen Beach takes the third. I think Rufus Cutler will be head and tail both of his class for he says he does not believe there will be anybody to graduate but him, centennial year too. That will be too bad if it proves to be true.

Marietta, August 27, 1884.

This is Mary's and Charlie's birthday and Mary is forty-two and Charlie 19. He has gone up to Cambridge to a political meeting and Rufus pere has gone to Wisconsin to the re-union of the Iron Brigade, the first one he has ever attended. I hope Charlie will get back all safe for I dread political excursions more than any others. This was a meeting of both parties for discussion so they may get along without any mishap unless they get to fighting.

Marietta, September 16, 1884.

Rufus Cutler comes off with the prize for the best scholarship. This is the third prize he has taken. The first was he and Charlie Dana, Rufus taking the first one of thirty dollars. The second one was Will Lucas thirty dollars and Rufus twenty and now this one is forty dollars and the fun of it is that Uncle Eph promised to double all he would get and as he has done so I presume he will this time. That is a pretty smart boy now if he is my grandboy. He is going to treat himself to a trip to Cincinnati and I hope he will have a good time for I am sure he will not do a wrong thing while he is gone.

Marietta, September 28, 1884.

You ask about Beman's boat. His ingenuity and skill in the making and cutting the patterns was

"Mother"
Mary Gates Dawes
Henry M. Dawes Mary Frances Dawes

not very happily rewarded. Charlie rowed up to Mr. Beach's but there is something the matter with the shape, you cannot move with safety while in it, and Be does not enjoy or use it. He got the pattern in Harper's Young Folks of two or three years ago. You ask about Charlie. He is studying law or reading law I guess they call it with Nye and Oldham and is very much interested in politics as all young men ought to be. The boys went to hear Schurtz the other evening and Rufus Cutler was won over to democracy by his sophistry, so he pretended.

Marietta, October 12, 1884.

Mary took Sister and Henry and went with Rufus Sen. up to Joe Dyars to the Farmer's Club yesterday and Auntie Be invited Bessie to spend the day with her. She is very fond of going there but they made a call at Grandmother Dawes' and Bessie found out that her mother had gone off without her and so she run off and she did it two or three times in the afternoon. When her mother came home she was too sick to punish her so Rufus Cutler had to take care of her and he brought her up here with her gossamer which she was to give back to me the first time she ran off. So I gave it to Lena to try on her little sisters to see if it would fit. I told Rufus Cutler that I could not punish the child for her mother, but I would tie a cord round her wrist and he might wind the other end round his hand so she could not run away from him when he took her home. Her mother said she came home disgusted with all human kind. Poor thing I don't wonder. She has been pretty hard to manage so far and I am afraid she will be more so as she grows older. But she is smart.

Marietta, October 10, 1884.

My Club was the first one in October. There were about sixty people here and the readers were Reuben Nye and Jewett Palmer and the article read was the one of Gladden's in the Century and it is the one he delivered here at Commencement time. Mr. Mitchell was the critic. Mr. Reed, the great man from Maine (the most of them seem from Maine just now) was here and he lifted the whole meeting out of the ditch and made the evening pass off delightfully. He made a speech on the Common Monday evening and Blaine came up from Parkersburg and they were both entertained by Pom Wells. Your father went down and invited Reed to the Club and Reed did not go until Wednesday. Monday night at nine o'clock your father and I drove down to the Common to see the crowd and stayed till eleven to see Blaine and the torch lights and the vast throng. It was a magnificent sight. It was a high old time in town and carried me back to 1840.

Marietta, October 12, 1884.

I saw by the paper that you are to have Blaine in Crawfordsville before the Nov. election. Tomorrow night we are to have three parties speaking in different parts of the town at the same time. The Democrats have Hendricks and Warner and another I don't remember who speak on the Common. The Republicans are going to have their doings of a more quiet kind in the City Hall with Stewart L. Woodford to address them. The temperance folks have Mrs. Woodbridge from Ravenna to speak in the Court House. This is all right enough so far as hearing her is concerned but they have no business getting her here the night before election to distract

sober minded people from the one thing they ought to do and that is vote for Blaine and not any side ticket.

Marietta, September 11, 1884.

We sleep down stairs with both windows clear up and do not suffer so dreadfully with the heat as we should upstairs. I expect every morning to find myself carried off by burglars and disappointed to find myself safe and sound, and not accounted of sufficient importance by that class of society to merit their attention. But I remember that Bill Kuntz is not at home. I shall have to sleep with one eye open when he gets back.

Marietta, October 19, 1884.

Oh dear and it is almost time for Bill Kuntz to be home and then I shall be afraid all the time night and day.

Marietta, October 23, 1884.

As Ohio goes, so goes the world and the democrats are expected to take back seats at the next election. I hope that Blaine can go through your town without a fight and I hope you will get to see him. I shall be glad when he is elected and I shall be vexed enough if he is defeated.

Marietta, November 7, 1884.

Here we are all torn to pieces over Indiana, what is the matter out there. We do have here the most ridiculous times you ever heard tell of celebrating victories, first the democrats and then the republicans. We went to bed last night thinking we had to tolerate Cleveland for President and then in the night between two and three we were aroused by the fellows firing cannon and bonfires and horns

and all sorts of noises. Of course nobody but democrats would be such fools and I would hardly let the sound enter my ears but covered my head with the bed clothes. Well this morning before we ate our breakfast some one telephoned that Blaine was elected and that was the rejoicing we heard in the night. Then of course we had a little bit of a love feast on a small scale but before nine o'clock by the time your father had got to the Bank here was another telegram that New York and Indiana and Illinois had gone for Cleveland. What in the world was the matter with the men and the wires and the messages. We came into the library after dinner and the telephone rung saying that Blaine had got New York by 500 or more! Here were three different returns in less than twelve hours. I hope now we have got them for sure. If they change again the men better quit and let the women take hold of it and run the elections for awhile. But I am going to drop the subject and let the thing work itself out and I am going to Missionary meeting at Mother Mills.

Evening. The town is still agitated over the election and I am all mussed up and cannot tell a straight story to save my life, so I won't try to give you the latest news but we are probably given over to the democrats. If Cleveland beats, our people that work by the day or week will be apt to feel the difference to their disadvantage. They will find that free trade and free whiskey won't feed and clothe their families. I think I shall hardly spend two or three weeks in Washington this winter if Cleveland is at the White House. I don't seem to write about anything but the presidency. The whole country is as much disquieted about it as we have been about the College president. I believe

they have got their finger on somebody now. We shall probably know in time for his inauguration and then the whole country will know whether Blaine is president on the fourth of next March. I am sorry about Indiana.

Marietta, November 19, 1884.

Have you got reconciled to Cleveland for president yet? Francie says she reckons we can live through it. She takes it about as gracefully as you do.

Marietta, November 30, 1884.

We had a very nice Thanksgiving dinner and fourteen of us sat down to it and the four in the kitchen made 18. Our pig was very nice and Uncle Bosworth carved it and our turkey was a sixteen pounder and your father carved that.

Marietta, November 27, 1884.

Lena (Miller) thinks that day labor is going to be well paid and they are all going to become rich and there are to be no more hard times in Cleveland's administration. I went to Mrs. Wilson to get her to make me a cloak and she said it was the first republican garment she had cut since before election she had been working for democrats all the time. ***Israel Waters' house was broken into night before last***and the Chapins. Last night we fastened up good and tight and left our gas burning and I watched for them till most morning and then I dropped asleep and let them have a good chance. I expect I shall have to wait till Bill Kuntz comes before I shall receive so much attention. Your father seems quite indifferent about it. ***I am expecting Beman and Arthur Beach up here to

oysters this evening. Mary is better both of the asthma and the headache and she thinks that little pills did it. She says she is not going to tell though.

Marietta, December 7, 1884.

I don't know as I told you that Rufus Cutler was going to New York as a delegate to the Delta Upsilon Society from the College. He left home Tuesday with Charlie Mills and one of the Means boys and they are entertained at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. I expect Rufus will come home with his tongue flying and his eyes blacker than ever with sight-seeing. ***The town is still filled with burglars but they have not been here yet but we watch for them till it is most time for them to come and then go to sleep.

Marietta, December 21, 1884.

Your father and I have talked California a little this winter but I don't supose we will go and I am sure we won't go to Florida for if anybody will have the right of speech it will be your father though I doubt if he would ever want it if it was not interdicted. The idea of his going south and not being able to say he had not confidence in Cleveland or his administration, I don't think he could possibly stand that. We are getting fine Florida oranges here for four dollars so it would hardly pay to go just to get oranges.

1885

Mother chewed gum at least once in her life

The Shedd boys arrived from Persia

Marietta, February 1, 1885.

Charlie came home from Cincinnati again today to spend Saturday and the Sabbath here. He has a free pass as engineer of the Mineral Valley R. R. so that it costs him nothing to go and come. He is still at Mrs. Phelps'. He seems to be very much interested in his studies and he is trying to be economical too and means to earn all the money he spends. He occasionally gets letters from Prof. Manatt in Lincoln, Nebraska and his father hears from Gov. Dawes who lives there and they say so much about his going to Lincoln that I think the lad has some notion of looking at the place before he makes up his mind where he will pitch his tent. Then there are three more of the same kind to take through the same round, first put them through college and then fit them for taking care of themselves, besides two girls to do the same for and more too.

Marietta, February 19, 1885.

Charlie went back to Cincinnati on Monday. It seems right quiet over there now that Charlie has gone, for we miss his singing and the drumming of the old piano.

Marietta, March 29, 1885.

Charlie is through in Cincinnati the first of May for this year. He will return next fall. We are all much pleased with what we hear of him there.

Marietta, May 16, 1885.

Charlie came home last night for the summer and the boys are coming up here for supper. Charlie has just got back from a trip to Chattanooga and Nashville and he had a delightful time of it and we shall hear all about it this evening.

Marietta, May 24, 1885.

The children (Henry and Bessie) are very stirring, enterprising young ones. Bessie's father was reproving her the other day in a very serious decided manner and after she thought she had had enough of it she said to him "Lets talk about cats." That is about equal to her saying to the dog that was barking after her, as she got out of his way, "Did you ever get left".

Marietta, May 30, 1885.

I offered Beman the other day fifty cents for the old hen I gave him two months ago and five cents apiece for fifteen little biddies and he would not take it though he is trying to sell them. I thought I was being liberal as I gave him the eggs to hatch as well as the hen.

Marietta, July 2, 1885.

The Shedd boys have come and they are real nice boys and nice companions for our own boys. They are beautiful boys surely.

Marietta, July 13, 1885.

Charlie has about as much engineering as he can do and he takes Rufus Cutler and Beman both for his aides so that is quite a help to their family exchequer. He paid a note at Law School for $50, and bought him a new suit since he came home in May with what he made by work and on getting oil leases and selling them again. But he cannot be so successful all the time. That is pretty well for 20 years old. They are all nice boys.

Marietta, July 19, 1885.

Beman has been wanting me to have a little party for him which I suppose means to have a little party for the little Elstons. I think perhaps I may.

Marietta, July 23, 1885.

Beman has gone up to Waterford to spend a week with the Van Meters', and Sister has gone to Barlow with the Grosvenor girls to spend the week, and Rufus Cutler has gone camping up on Harmar Hill with Prof. Mills family so it would seem as if they might be a little quiet and subdued down at the Daweses but I don't know that they are. Charlie is at home more than half sick with boils on his face and Henry has headache a good deal and Bessie, "born like a wild young colt she flies" in the language of the immortal Watts and she makes everybody else fly too.

Marietta, August 1, 1885.

Little Sister came up here yesterday to stay over Sunday but was invited to a picnic on Harmar Hill where the Mills have been encamped with the Ketters and some of the boys like Rufus Cutler and Willie Shedd. Rufus took little Henry up with him

one day last week and kept him over night and he took him again last night. His mother drove up there last night and she asked him if he did not want to go home with her and he said no he wanted to stay for they were going to sit round the camp fire and repeat slang phrases so his mother let him stay.

Marietta, August 7, 1885.

I must tell you about Charlie whose letter I send with this. He has had a class mate at Law School, the son of Col. Buckland, who invited him to come to Fremont to the unveiling of the Soldier's Monument. Of course he went and as he was earning his own money nobody objected. Just see what a good time he had there and it was certainly worth all it cost him to see and be with so many great men. I hope his head won't be turned with such opportunities and I don't think it will. Rufus Cutler has been, for a good deal of the time, at the camp on Harmar Hill having a good time and Beman has been having a good time with the girls. Sister is up here off and on. I went down to Mary's yesterday morning to have Sister do some stitching for me and she and her mother and Rufus Cutler and Beman were having the jolliest kind of a time and all of them *chewing gum.* Just think of that for the mother of a half dozen children, and the grandmother for they had the audacity to ask me to join them. I hope the young ladies won't teach our boys to smoke cigarettes.

Marietta, August 13, 1885.

The campers-out on Harmar Hill have got home today after a three weeks' campaign. Rufus

"The Farm"
Home of Grandfather and Grandmother Gates

Cutler and Henry and sometimes Beman have been up there a day and night at a time. Now the Walters and Rathbones and the Devols with a number of young ladies and gentlemen have gone up the Ohio several miles on the Virginia shore. Charlie Dawes was invited. He got home Monday night and has gone out surveying. By the way you must send back Charlie's letter to his mother for she keeps that among her treasures.

Marietta, August 23, 1885.

Charlie always comes up here in the morning instead of going to Sabbath school where he ought to go. Why is it that a young man when he graduates or goes into business for himself or comes to man's estate feels as if he was too big to go to Sabbath school? What a pity it is so. The other boys went as long as Allen Maxwell stayed and now they don't want to go any more. Girls don't make such a fuss about being under tutors and governors . Charlie expects to go back to Cincinnati this fall and go on with his law studies. Rufus Cutler comes out of college next summer and I am sure I don't know what he means to do but I am sure he won't be an idler. Next Thursday is Mary's and Charlie's birthday and I am going to have a family party and supper down on the side of the hill on the old road. I wish you could see the farm. It never looked so well as it does now.

Marietta, August 28, 1885.

This is my father's birthday. He was born in 1787 just the year before the pioneers came to Marietta and he came in 1790 when he was three years old. His father Joshua Shipman represented the share of his father Capt. Samuel Shipman in the Ohio Company. So you have the blood of the Revolu-

tionary officers in your veins from both sides of my family and it is not much wonder if we are all a little rebellious. Yesterday was Mary's and Charlie's birthday which makes her queen dowager and he is king of the minors for next year he attains his majority. Don't it seem wonderful that he is so old and he is very old of his years too. We had a pleasant tea party in their honor yesterday at four o'clock, Mary's family and the Shedd boys and Auntie Be and Uncle Barty and Aunt Jennie. Uncle Bozzy was not well enough to come. We had a very good supper of ham and rooster salad and brown and white bread and biscuit and pickle and pineapple cake and raisin cake and white cake and coffee and last of all lemon ice, the whole was fit for a king. There has been an excursion to Niagara Falls and the Thousand Isles this week and Beman went as far as the Falls in company of some others from here. We are expecting him home today.

Marietta, September 2, 1885.

Did you know that they are digging a gas well in the brick yard in the side of the hill above the Chair Factory and I am exercising myself considerably about it lest it blow out oil and set the whole thing afire, board pile and all. Charlie has a nice lease out on Big Run where they are digging all around him so that he hopes to make something on it before long and he hopes to make more than his expenses at Cincinnati this winter. He paid his tuition fee about two months after he came away from school this summer and Gen. Cox acknowledged the receipt of it himself and asked if he had made that since he last saw him and commended him very highly for being able to take care of himself. He is a nice boy.

Marietta, August 28, 1885.

I have begun knitting some stockings for Henry, he is puny and little he needs something to keep him warm. Bessie can keep herself warm without anybody's help. She saw her mother's picture the other day in short sleeves and low neck. She said she loved her mama dearly but she did not like that picture for she was bare legged clear up to her neck and bare legged on the arms too. She is a smart young one and so they all are. Mary Frances is hard to beat in that way. In fact they are all smart.

Marietta, September 10, 1885.

The misses are all in High School and the lads in College this week and play day is over for them all and I hope their minds will be more occupied with their books than with the racing and chasing they have had this summer. I don't see why Mary doesn't go distracted with her children and they are the best behaved children in town too, if I do say it.

Marietta, October 3, 1885.

Rufus Cutler was playing a crack game of foot ball Monday in the campus and he somehow stepped into a hole in the ground and turned his ankle and he is laid up with a lame, swollen, painful foot which Dr. Cotton says is worse than a broken bone but I hope it won't prove so. He was informed this week, Wednesday, that he had taken the historical prize of forty dollars so he had a streak of good luck to make the bad more bearable.

Marietta, October 4, 1885.

To Auntie Be:

Mary had six or eight boys there for supper Tuesday evening and little Sister made the cake for them. I think if Mary had good health we would

all have to follow my leader and we can almost do it and she lie in bed half the time. She is a continual astonishment to me. She does not stick her head outside the door more than once in two or three days. Poor Rufus Cutler, you have heard, is laid up with a lame ankle and hobbles round with a crutch and a cane. I should not wonder if he was lame for months and the time will seem pretty tedious to him though he will make it as pleasant as he can for others. Poor little Henry goes to school and it is very hard for him to get used to things and I think sometimes he is too gentle to come in contact with rough, rude boys that go to the common schools. But he cannot be always sheltered and cuddled so it may be best for him to have it now while he is young. You know tomorrow is Bessie's birthday and I dare say she wishes she could go over and make griddle cakes with you for breakfast.

Marietta, October 9, 1885.

I have taken a railroad journey. You know Charlie is surveying on the old line R. R. over to Ames and he had been wanting his father and his grandfather to go over the road with him and see it. He has to go back to his law studies in Cincinnati next week so he insisted on their going Thursday and your father and Charlie said I must go too. Yesterday morning we went down to the depot a little after seven o'clock. I got off at Mr. Vincent's and stayed till your father came back about six o'clock. Rufus Senior went out to Big Run and made a speech and your father and all of them went over the road to see Charlie's engineering and out to see the new coal mines that are going to put our people on their feet financially. I had a pleasant visit of the day at Mrs. Vincent's. Your father

stopped there on his return and had supper, then we went about half a mile with a man with a lantern to Mr. Gard's where we spent the night. I went out to the little old log cabin where they lived sixty years ago and saw them boiling down cider to make apple butter and the great brass kettle that would hold more than a half barrel hanging on a crane over a great wood fire and the whole thing looked as old timey as even my memory reaches.

Marietta, October 14, 1885.

Last night the boys with the two Shedds were here to tea and we had a beautiful visit, they all behaved like gentlemen even to Henry. Charlie started this morning to Cincinnati to pursue his studies. He was not very much enamored of the law at first but he seems quite interested now and Gen. Cox thinks well of him. He has made considerable money this summer in surveying and in the employ of the old line railroad. I tell him even G. W. did not survey for a railroad when he was as young as himself. I think it very likely that Rufus Cutler will go into the law too and then we shall have nothing but litigations. They are nice boys all of them and Beman made the speech to the half dozen boys that were taken into Alpha Kappa and he studies better and is not all the time running after the girls.

Marietta, October 25, 1885.

Charlie is coming home the last of the week to look after his railroad.

Women can keep a secret but would the world improve any if everybody kept everything to themselves. How little we know of the true inwardness of our most intimate friends and is it not a good thing that our thoughts cannot be read?

Marietta, November 2, 1885.

I have been sick. Little Sister came up and spent Saturday afternoon and night and all day Sunday and the night too with me. Your father won't let anybody take care of me at night but himself, but the child is nice to have about whether you are sick or well. * * * I don't see why anybody should dread to talk about Jonah. His gourd vine withered and so has many another one and though we may never be swallowed by a whale we are all liable to be by calamities that are as great as Jonah's whale, and we are all quite as likely not to want to do the will of the Lord and refuse to do the things that his providence finally brings us round to do. I think we are all of us very like Jonah.

Marietta, December 12, 1885.

So Rufus Cutler is at your house at last after all these years of waiting. I know he will have a pleasant time and I am sure you will be proud of him and enjoy his visit. If you can show as good a specimen of a young man out in your college I shall think highly of your Pres. and Profs. and of the Indiana mothers and grandmothers as well as fathers and grandfathers for it takes all of us to make good boys and hard work at that.

Marietta, December 10, 1885.

My last letter from you was in Rufus Cutler's letter and I must say that I think he writes a good letter and he seems to be enjoying himself but I hope he will be glad to get home for I am sure we shall all be glad to see him and I guess that we shall miss him the most when he goes away for keeps. He always says in his letters that he "expects grandfather and grandmother are getting along well

enough but I am afraid that mother will be sick." Thoughful boy, and he always writes himself, your dutiful son, which is very nice and true too. Pres. Andrews says that he is the best fellow he knows of, the most symmetrical character. He is so much afraid that he will be thought goody-good that he says the most aggravating things just to show he is not. I suppose Charlie got to your house Friday night and though you may think a great deal of your S. S. S. (Sunday School Scholars) you need not be ashamed of your nephews. I hope the boys will have another chance to see Mrs. Wallace's (Mrs. Lew Wallace) curiosities. Rufus seemed so much disappointed in not getting there when he was invited. Mary says she expects the two boys Tuesday evening, they are to leave your house tonight and spend tomorrow in Cincinnati and then come home Tuesday. We shall be glad to have them all together again for a little while. Beman has just passed his examinations very creditably.

Marietta, December 7, 1885.

Our boys came home full of their visit. Rufus Cutler says that Aunt Bettie and Uncle Will know how to entertain company the best of anybody he ever saw. Charlie says poor Aunt Bettie had him sick on her hands to take care of.

1886

Rufus Cutler graduated but there are no letters because Aunt Bettie was in Marietta

Beman burned by an explosion

Mother suffered terribly with asthma this year and spent the month of October in Crawfordsville where she was greatly relieved. Bessie was with her

Marietta, January 16, 1886.

Rufus Cutler has just got his prize for $20 that he was looking for before he went to your house.

Marietta, February 7, 1885.

I had Bessie all day. She was just as good as she could be making a postage stamp book for Sister's birthday which comes the third of March. It was made entirely of red and green stamps and she did it very nicely indeed for she is handy for a little six year old girl or a big six year old girl I might say.

Marietta, March 3, 1886.

This is little Sister's birthday. The poor thing is celebrating alone down home. Her father and

mother went to Cleveland Monday afternoon expecting to be gone until tomorrow night. I sent down for her to come to tea tonight and bring Bessie. Henry has been staying with us. * * * I believe that I have told you that my time for ease and release from fear had expired now that Bill Kuntz is at liberty but he is laid up in Columbus with the rheumatism and I am thankful for that. That don't sound very Christian like but I am simply looking out for number one.

Marietta, March 12, 1886.

Charlie is settling down into splendid shape. He told his mother when he was here last that he never tasted wine and that a drop of whiskey or brandy never passed his lips and I believe he said that he never smoked or chewed. What do you think of that for a boy that will be twenty-one next August.

Marietta, May 23, 1886.

Miss Bessie Dawes has got the measles for sure this time. She is not very sick. She is a restless child and I think they will find it pretty hard work to keep her from taking cold or injuring her eyes. * * * Charlie will be home the last of this month. He stands eighth in his class of 107 which is doing very well for a boy that is not old enough to be admitted to the Bar. He has been out visiting a good deal and dined out and tead out and danced out a good deal so that I don't suppose he has killed himself studying.

Cincinnati, June 9, 1886.

To Auntie Be in Marietta:

If your room is hot you can sleep with your door open for Bill Kuntz is so crippled up he can't get over the fill.

Marietta, July 9, 1886.

I suppose you have read in the Register before this of the accident to Beman. The boy it seems has been at work, he and John Shedd with young Short who owns the boat, in launching it and getting it ready to run under Short's father. There were a half dozen boys there at the sawmill landing on Sacra Via when they started out , Sheets and Eells and Bruce and Beman got into the boat and the others looked on. They had not gone more than twenty yards when the boiler exploded and Beman being the nearest was scalded, so he says, with hot water, not steam. They were thrown into the river and young Sheets came near drowning. Young Bruce went to him but he dragged him down. John Shedd comprehending the situation dived down from a raft of logs (with his hat on and all, Dawes like) brought them up and pushed them before him to the shore. The Sheets boy would have soon been dead. Poor Beman was in a pretty bad plight but he succeeded in swimming ashore and was brought home in a carriage. The doctor says his burns are not deep. There is a large blister on the hollow of his foot and ankle as large as your hand and another on his knee where the blister was broken and the skin came off with his pantaloons and another higher up on his leg and one on his body. There were several burned spots on his face that did not blister but are swollen and look red. Both hands were burned and the right one, I should think, half the skin might come off. He did not inhale any steam and his eyes are not hurt and if he gets along well I don't see why he should have any bad scars. The doctor soon came to him after he got home and covered him with lime water and linseed oil and gave him morphine for he was shivering and shak-

ing from the pain and excitement. He went to sleep and slept several hours and wakened feeling relieved of the smarting and burning sensation. He looks pretty badly this morning with the ragged skin hanging to his hands and feet in tatters. He says he will be out in the yard tomorrow but it will be more than a week before he can wear his drawers let alone his shoes and pantaloons.

Marietta, July 11, 1886.

Beman is getting along nicely though his burns are a little more sore than they were. They stick to the bandages and I think likely will be slow to heal. His face seems swollen and has been all the time but he is doing as well as could be expected.

Marietta, July 18, 1886.

Beman is getting better of his burns and they have never been anything but healthy sores. The skin has all come off and the burns look very red but they are all right. It was a most wonderful thing that he was not killed outright.

Marietta, July 30, 1886.

This is Rufus Cutler's birthday and he is out on the washed out Mineral Railroad engineering. They hope he will be able to come home Saturday night. Charlie is at work in his father's office and Rufus is engineering or surveying some lines to some new coal mines and kind of reaching out towards Malta, hoping to reach the Black Diamond that is coming down the Muskingum. Beman has got pretty well of his burns but the skin is very tender on his feet.

Marietta, July 31, 1886.

To Auntie Be:

* * * Yesterday was Rufus Cutler's birthday and his Mineral R. R. was so washed away by one of the storms this week that they will be at great expense in building it up again. He was engineering the other side of the washout and he walked almost twenty miles to get home in the evening. He takes to his business first rate. Charlie and his father are supplying ties by the million.

Marietta, August 14, 1886.

To Auntie Be:

Rufus Cutler and Beman are out surveying while Rufus Senior and Charlie are running the railroad ties. Henry and Bessie and little Sister are about as usual.

Marietta, August 15, 1886.

Rufus Senior is just as good to Mary when she is sick as he can be. She told the other day of the way he did when she had been having one of her worst attacks of asthma and was getting easier and going to sleep, he would put his ear down close to her to hear if she was breathing or he would try to feel her pulse without disturbing her and, of course, every time he would waken her. At last she told him that she was not going to die and to let her sleep.

Marietta, August 21, 1886.

Mary has been having asthma for two nights. She wants to go to your house as late as she can so she can stay through November. The Shedd boys are expected tonight then we shall have further accounts of their wonderful visit to you. Rufus Cutler and Beman got back from surveying the Mineral

Road. Rufus C. surveyed over a hill and then to test it he went right back and he did not vary an inch from his first marks which we all call rather remarkable for he is younger than George Washington was when he surveyed the Ohio valley and laid out the bottom in West Virginia opposite the mouth of Big Hocking.

Marietta, August 28, 1886.

This is *your* grandfather's birthday, his 99th, and he has been dead 26 years and I suppose you have almost forgotten him, you were so young, which seems almost too bad for he loved you so much. When I was in Beverly the day that *my* grandfather (Bartlett) was 100 years old (if they count by years in Heaven) I went to the house where he was born and went into every room in the house so that I was sure I was in the room. I had never seen the woman nor had ever been in her house but when I told her my errand she was very good to go around with me. I can not go to the houses where my father and mother were born nor even to the one where I first drew breath for it has been torn down as well as the others. But the house where Mary was born 44 years ago yesterday is still habitable and the one where Charlie Dawes was born 21 years ago yesterday is the house on the corner of Fourth street where you were born and you were the only ones born there. My Charlie (Gates) and Mary were born across the street, and Rufus Cutler and Beman in Jim Nye's house and Mary's three younger children were born in the house where they are living now. Mary celebrated the day of Charlie Dawes' majority yesterday by having a family gathering at a six o'clock tea. We had a very pleasant time and your father and I both enjoyed it and came

The Baptist church now stands where Mother and her brother were born.

home at half past seven. We had a very nice supper and everything passed off splendidly and Mary was fairly radiant.

Marietta, Sept. 13, 1886.

Sister is in High School this term. Beman is in College. Charlie is learning trade and bookkeeping and was sworn into the Bar, if that is the way to tell it, this week. He is a Lawyer now. Rufus Cutler is learning telegraphy and doing business with his father. He will read law in the office of Nye and Oldham.

Marietta, October 17, 1886.

To Mother in Crawfordsville:

They are getting along nicely as far as I can see so don't you be worried about us here at home. Now Mary don't let us have the mortification of knowing that you are so tender-hearted that you cannot leave home even for the sake of your health. For the sake of your life and your health do wait a little longer.

Marietta, October 20, 1886.

To Mother in Crawfordsville:

I have been down to see how they are at your house and I am free to state that as far as the house goes it is doing very well indeed and they all speak as if the cooking was good. I don't know how Rufus Senior gets along with the children and I am never there to see them all together but I would not wonder if he found R. R. ties and human ties a little troublesome sometimes. But dear me let him bear the burden a little while for I am sure it will be better for you to stay longer. Do possess your soul in patience. Henry was up here to supper last night and he is cer-

tainly growing fat. He is a pretty courageous fellow and very manly so he will bear your absence heroically. He says he and Papa want to see Mama and they don't care whether the others do or not and they don't care who knows it. He thinks he gets pretty long lessons and this morning he was out in the kitchen studying his Geography lesson by the fire. I don't know but the trials that he meets now will do him good when he doesn't have his mother to cuddle him. Just here I dropped my pen at 3:30 o'clock and went down to your house and as it was too early for the children to come home from school I went into Mrs. Dawes and sat a little while till Henry and Lund came in from school and as he did not want to come home with me I started home so as to get there before nightfall and met Beman on the way and he came with me to supper. He says he is going to have higher marks this month than he did last month.

Marietta, October 24, 1886.

I know that you have all you can do to write letters home and I always hear from them but I am a little like the children and say in my heart, if not with my lips as they do, now it is my turn to have the next letter. Henry has brought me up all of his letters to keep till after his mother gets home and then he is going to have one of the pigeon holes in the wonderful desk of yours on purpose to keep his letters in. He came up here Friday to stay till after breakfast Sunday but I went down with him to your house Saturday morning and Carl happened to spy him so he ran over to play with him and Henry was not ready to come up till after dinner. Today after your meeting I got him and Sister to come home with me. After dinner I took him up-

stairs and put him to bed and I sat down and darned his pants. I told him that it was a work of necessity and mercy and the Lord said we could do such works on the Sabbath and I thought that was one. It seems that his other pants have got past wearing and these were all he had and this accident of yesterday kept him from going to Sabbath school and church and he could not be seen till it was mended. Sister is reading in the dining room, I am writing in the kitchen and Rufus Pere and your father are talking in the library and Rufus Cutler and Henry are gone on the hill. Charlie came up this morning and he and I walked down to your church but he did not want to come up here afterwards. I don't see but that the wheels at home are running smoothly. I suppose that Bessie did herself credit at the little Elston dinner party and we can all of us feel proud in advance of her behavior. Mrs. Andrews says that she misses Bessie very much when she looks over at your house. I expect she will be so quiet and still that it will take a long time for the neighbors to find out when she comes home.

Marietta, October 30, 1886.

Our neighbor Bill Kuntz got himself into trouble again last night in trying to break into some house. It seems that he had just got a divorce on Friday and he was determined to make this girl (I don't know who) marry him whether she would or no. I believe they cannot find him today but they will pretty soon for he is too much crippled up to get far away. He was let out on probation and now he will have to go back again. He is so wicked that that is the best place for him, both on his own account and others.

Marietta, November 4, 1886.

Mary got home Tuesday evening safe and sound after a very hard day's ride and a great deal of trouble in making the transfer at Stewarts where the oil train went down last week and burned up the bridge and set the river on fire. I cannot tell you how relieved I am to get her home both on my own account and on account of the children and the house. Rufus Sen. is a poor hand to stand at the head of a house. Poor little pitiful Henry came up here one night after school with his books and I asked if he came to stay all night and he said yes and I found on inquiry that he had not told anybody that he was coming so your father found he must go down and see about it. When he went to the house it was all open and Rufus Senior and Charlie had gone out to Athens to make speeches and Rufus Cutler and Beman were in the country and Sister was out making calls.

1887

Caro appeared

Charlie went to Lincoln to live

Marietta, January 15, 1887.

Your father and Mary went over to Mr. Fearing's to call on Miss Blymyer and they both came home delighted with their call and the young lady.

Marietta, January 27, 1887.

I had a telephone from Charlie a little while ago saying there was a young lady in Harmar that he would like to bring up here this afternoon. I told him I should be happy to see them. Everybody seems to like her.

Marietta, February 21, 1887.

Did you see the article in the Register last week on interstate commerce signed C. G. D. which you would know stands for Charlie and did you see the answer to it in the next number signed Senex which stands for Rufus Cutler. The article in answer made Charlie mad for he is not used to being cut up and of course as he did not know who it was he was firing away all the time so his father had to tell him that it was Rufus Cutler and that made him madder than ever and as they are not either of them very patient under contradiction they had a very lively debate for awhile. They have not laid it to heart seriously however and have

cooled down and are as harmonious as ever. It does not make me think any the less of our boys to have them try to make others think as they do and to argue and show some spirit if they don't hold grudges.

Marietta, March 11, 1887.

Bill Kuntz has got back to his old headquarters in Columbus.

Marietta, April 2, 1887.

Charlie is expecting to go west soon, first to Kansas City and then to Omaha where he has a classmate in each city. He may go to Lincoln as he first thought. It will be pretty hard for them to see him go.

Marietta, April 8, 1887.

Mary is very busy getting ready for Charlie to go to Lincoln, Neb. to make a new home. It seems sad to think he will never come back only to visit. Beman has been very miserable for three or four weeks with some trouble of the kidneys. He ought to keep perfectly quiet but it is too hard for him to do that. He does not get up until about noon and then walks around sometimes out here and sometimes down town. I heard yesterday of an anecdote of Col. Mills and Uncle Sam. Sarah Shipman and Maria Nye when they were children were always quarreling about their grandfathers who was the greatest and Uncle Sam told Col. Mills of it. He said, "Well Shipman was a carpenter and Nye was a shoemaker and Mills was a blacksmith now they want to know the social position of the families. I say handsome is as handsome does".

Marietta, April 14, 1887.

Charlie left us yesterday morning to make a home of his own in the world. I had the three boys and Mary Frances up here for tea the night before. It is a great family event, Charlie's leaving home. It just about used us all up. He will probably go to Lincoln, Nebraska though he is going to stop in Omaha to see a law classmate who has gone out there to settle down and who wants him to go there into partnership with him but I think he will not stay there. He has started out rather suddenly at last for he decided last spring he would stay with his father till next spring. When he changed his mind about staying he wanted to go right away. I am glad that Miss Blymyer has a hold upon his heart for I think that is a great safeguard for him, for she is a good Christian and a nice girl. And there are not many boys that are equal to our boys I can tell you. I don't know whether you think so or not but they are about as good as Will and maybe will be better when they get to be as old. Mary has the church circle. I am glad to have her have it for it is a diversion and she would have gone to bed sick over Charlie's leaving home if she was not so busy.

Marietta, April, 1887.

Charlie makes quite a hole in the house. They had a letter this morning from him at Omaha. He was much interested just before he reached there with some old gentleman he met on the cars and had quite a pleasant time with him. Pretty soon ex-Governor Fairchild of Wisconsin came in from another car and as Charlie had been introduced to him in Cincinnati and as he is not troubled with bashfulness he stepped up to him and introduced himself and the Governor led him up to the gentleman he

had been talking to and introduced him to Senator Allison of Iowa. The boy has push enough to make progress in the world and principle enough to keep him in the right direction.

Marietta, April 20, 1887.

It seemed to me that poor Mary would cry her eyes out about poor Charlie going away from home but he is so capable of taking care of himself that I think she feels differently about it now the first shock is over and she is diverted. I want to have the next fellow make a banker though I don't know as he has ever had a thought of such a thing. Beman is going to be our literary man after all for I am sure he never will be strong enough to make a business man. Henry I guess will have to be preacher. Tomorrow is his birthday and I asked him what he wanted. He said two dollars or the life of Charles 2nd King of Sweden. How does that do for a ten year old boy that is not well enough to go to school. Sister will make a scholar and maybe a teacher and Bessie will make a housekeeper and a nurse. I often wonder what they will all be and that is as near as I can hit it. Mary has so many boys that I should think that they better not settle in the same town.

Marietta, May 2, 1887.

You don't know how we miss Charlie. He took letters from here to Judge Doan who lives in Omaha and he said he would take him into his office and he could support himself till he could work in the law by city engineering and he had a friend from the law school there who was taking care of himself. Gen. Cox and Dr. Andrews gave him beautiful letters. He had a great mind to stay there without going to Lin-

coln. He stayed a week then went to Lincoln where Manatt and Walton, Mrs. Dawes' nephew and two of Rufus' cousins, one the ex-governor, live and they had as great inducements or even greater to offer him and in the only letter we have had from there he seems to think that promises the most. I rather think it will be Lincoln but either of them are great openings for a young man that has nothing but his letters and a fine personal appearance to recommend him.

Marietta, May 7, 1887.

Mary hears from Charlie twice a week. He has decided to stay in Lincoln. Rufus Sen.'s cousin Walton will give him engineering to do as much as he wants (he is city engineer) and that will enable him to pay his board. There is another one of whom he rents an office or has a desk in his office and then there is a real estate man who will give him a percent of all that he sells and he has put a deal of land into his hands so it looks as if his prospects were very good for taking care of himself at once. I cannot help thinking it is a great thing for him to be engaged to this nice little girl of his. That will be a safeguard of itself. It does seem as if we had everything to hope for in him. Rufus Cutler is keeping books for his father and as Mary says it is a good thing for them both. He is the nicest of the flock sure that Rufus Cutler is. He is thoughtful and obliging in every way and not so very selfish.

Marietta, May 21, 1887.

Charlie is earning $5.00 per day engineering and is able to take care of himself. He is a nice boy. Rufus Cutler is in the office with his father and is very nice. Beman is better and is very nice.

Sister is smart and so is Bessie. She learned the 2nd commandment in one afternoon. Henry is pretty well again.

Marietta, June 5, 1887.

I brought Henry home with me at noon but Bessie did not want to come, she had rather go to Missionary meeting than come here. She has learned the 4th commandment but she cannot read. Her mother don't want to send her to the public schools and the little school of Alice Waters is a kindergarten where they learn to play and she don't gain much. Henry goes to Mrs. Norton Woodruff and Bessie ought to.

1889 to 1892

Occasional letters mostly to Auntie Be

Marietta, January 29, 1889.

To Beman in Columbus at Ohio State Univ.:

I guess the University people must think that we think a good deal of you by the way we call to visit you. First Charlie stopped or rather went that way on purpose to stop to see you, then Rufus Senior made you a little visit, then Rufus Junior made you quite a visit and Thursday if the weather had been good your grandfather would have gone to Columbus to the Ohio Historical Association and he would have been out to see you.

Marietta, May 23, 1889.

To Aunt Bettie in Lincoln, Neb.:

I suppose that you are at Charlie's today. Charlie thinks he has got the nicest wife in all round about. I hope she will be able to say there was never anybody so good as he is. Did you ever hear of snow as late as May 22? That is what we had and now it is growing cold again I am sorry to say.

Marietta, May 28, 1889.

To Aunt Bettie on a trip to Nebraska:

Mary was very much pleased with your letter from Charlie's. She was glad to have somebody else speak so cheeringly of his business prospects and of his nice little wife and his devotion to her. She has had his own word for it before but she is glad to have others speak the same way.

Boston, Mass., July 30, 1889.

To Mother:

Eph seemed to think Rufus Senior pretty sick but he really did not know any more about him than we did and that is not much for you and Bettie both write the wordiest letters and tell the least of anybody I know of. This letter is the same kind made out of nothing. I wish Beman could see the energetic engraver that Will Bosworth is making of himself. He was in here the other evening and told of being invited down to Newport to see Cornelius Vanderbuilt's house with his class. He is engraver for some publishing house. He is making plans for Dr. Frank's new house on the seashore.

Marietta, September 26, 1889.

To Auntie Be in Cincinnati:

I am helping to keep the Methody Conference, that is I have two ministers "from way back". One of them preaches in a little town called Clarksburg in Ross county and as it is an old town I don't suppose we have any maps old enough to have it on. He is a right nice kind of man. Tell Eph he asked me if Marietta was settled by the French and he asked if the Ohio University at Athens was not a pretty old college. I said yes it was laid out a hundred years ago. Now this man was born and raised in Gallipolis and was in the 93 regiment for three years and has a son and daughter in the college at Columbus. The other one was born on the head waters of Shade River he says and I suppose if old Jacob Young had lived in this day he would still be praying for " the head waters of Shade River even to Margaret Creek" least wise I think they must need it.

Marietta, November 22, 1889.

To Auntie Be:

Beman is out in the wild woods and his mother got a letter from him this morning in which he said that yesterday they did not have anything to eat till night and they worked all day and trudged along in the rain. It was the hardest day they had had. I guess that he will see harder days pretty soon for besides the rain and mud it is growing cold and that brings frozen ears and fingers and toes and maybe sleeping cold at night. Well the boys must learn to bear hardships and stand in their lots.

Marietta, March 22, 1890.

To Auntie Be:

The children are better but they cannot go out yet. Mary was taken sick yesterday with neuralgia and suffered intensely. Lucy took Bessie home with her and kept her one day and Henry took care of himself, and poor Mary Frances took care of her mother in the day time and Bessie at night, and Rufus Cutler took care of Henry at night and Rufus Senior took care of Mary. I expect to hear every time that I phone that Mary Frances is sick. She is a jewel and Bettie told her the other day that she wished she was twins for we could stand another one just exactly like her.

Cincinnati, October 21, 1890.

To Beman Gates:

I hope that Bessie will be content with her crow and kitten and not set her heart on a greyhound.

Marietta, December 14, 1890.

To Auntie Be:

Mary just now phoned that her grandson had come and mother and son are doing well! I suppose

that you heard it as soon as we did from the Walnut Hills folks. We are all glad that it is a son and I suppose that it gives general satisfaction in all the families. Here I am with my old pardner (Mary) granddames for sure.

Marietta, April 3, 1891.

To Auntie Be:

I am glad that Rufus Cutler has gone to Lincoln and I am sure he will enjoy his vacation for he is going to stop in Chicago on his way home to see the boys from here. So Mrs. Blymyer says that it is Rufus that the baby is to be called. Mary acts as if there never had been a grandmother before at all at all. I had her family up here to dinner yesterday and Bettie and Will and when we were not playing letters she was telling what she was going to do when the baby came to visit. She and Bettie are about as foolish over this letter game as Francie and Sophie are about that other game you tell about. There is this difference between you and me and that is they drag me in with them but you have grit enough to keep out.

Marietta, April 18, 1891.

This time I am going to write about the party at Grandmother Dawes'. ***Besides Lucy and Mary and Sarah to wait on the tables there was old Adaline with a white cap on and just such a one as I want. The crown came down over the little pug knot behind and that would just satisfy me and at the same time I should look better than Adaline. Aunt Julia could not come for which I was sorry. Rufus Cutler got home yesterday before noon and I only saw him long enough to get a kiss but Bettie says it is real funny to hear him talk about *our* baby.

MARY GATES DAWES
"THE MOTHER OF THE FLOCK"

Marietta, January 28, 1892.

To Aunt Frances:

I suppose there is no doubt but your mother's face will let her in (Heaven) without any questions, but if they should call her right in question, she as well as Mary could get in on their tears that come so easily and in such profusion.